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Vol I. P. III.

Portrait of a French Officer.

Published by Edwd Kerby, Stuffords Str. Bond. Str. Nov. 1814

NARRATIVE

OF A

FORCED JOURNEY

THROUGH

Spain and France,

AS A

PRISONER OF WAR,

IN

THE YEARS 1810 TO 1814.

83532

By MAJOR-GENERAL LORD BLAYNEY.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE DUKE OF YORK.

SIR,

In presuming to solicit your Royal Highness's protection for the following pages, I at once gratify two of the first feelings of my heart; the expression of profound reverence for Your Royal Highness's illustrious person, and the most perfect devotion to the service at the head of which Your Royal Highness presides with such distinguished honour.

To whom indeed can a soldier dedicate his work with so much propriety as to a Prince who by the unanimous suffrage of the British Army is hailed by the glorious title of "The Soldier's Friend?"

I can only regret that these volumes are not more worthy the patronage with which Your Royal Highness has been pleased to honour them, by deigning to accept their dedication; but whatever they may want in interest, from the confined opportunities of a Prisoner, I trust they will be found to contain the expression of the patriotic feelings of a British Officer, who glories in his unalterable attachment

to

to Your Royal Highness's August House, as well as in the devotion and respect with which he has the honour to be,

SIR,

Your Royal Highness's

most obedient

and most faithful humble servant,

BLAYNEY.

PREFACE.

It is the common custom of travellers to publish their Journals with a prefatory apology for their literary faults, on the ground of their not having been intended for publication; but although the author of the following pages is truly entitled to plead this excuse in bar of severe criticism, he waves that right, convinced that it can neither add to the merit of the work nor efficiently apologize for its defects. He begs the reader, however, to bear in mind, that though the peculiar situation in which he was placed frequently deprived him of the opportunity of immediately putting pen to paper, yet he has endeavoured from recollection to supply that deficiency though perhaps at some distance of time

after the circumstances happened. This, he trusts, will excuse any inaccuracies that may be met with; for, without affectation, he must declare that he had not originally any idea of offering this narrative to public notice.

Nor is it his intention to enter into the circumstances, which from enemies united Great Britain and Spain in one common cause, the glorious one of Justice, Humanity, and the Independence of all Europe. It is sufficient to say, that the sympathising generosity of the English nation could not contemplate the freedom of a gallant people, in danger of being annihilated, without affording its assistance to snatch them from the abyss.

The system of operations laid down for the conduct of the war in Spain, at the time this Narrative commences, being to distract the enemy's attention by calling it towards as many distant points as possible, the author was in consequence appointed to the command of a detachment of British and foreign troops in the English service,

and

and a Spanish regiment, intended to make a diversion on the coast of Andalusia; and though this object unfortunately failed, owing to circumstances which he could not foresee, and consequently could not provide against, he dares assert, with confidence, that no blame can be attached to himself, or to the officers in general who served under him; and therefore he feels comparatively happy in the consolatory reflexion that though he could not "command success," he endeavoured to "deserve it," which was all that depended on himself.

Although a prisoner, the author's rank entitled him to a degree of personal liberty while travelling, and procured him a familiar intercourse with the first classes of society, both French and Spanish, which afforded him opportunities of observation that could scarcely have occurred to an officer of inferior rank. The result of these observations the author now presumes to offer to the public; and though he is far from expecting that his work will entirely

satisfy

satisfy those who seek for instruction alone, he hopes it will not be found destitute of reflections, interesting to the politician and the patriot, and that it will also afford to the most numerous class of readers, that amusement which they principally look for in works of this nature.

CONTENTS OF VOL. I.

CHAPTER I.

Page

Motives of an expedition from Gibraltar to the vicinity of Malaga—Situation of the enemy's detachments in Andalusia—Embarkation of the troops—Arrival at Ceuta—Spanish military negligence—Sail for the coast of Spain—Proposal to attack Malaga—Reasons for declining it—Land at Calle de la Moralle—Digression respecting military orders and distinctions..... 1

CHAPTER II.

March to Fiangerolla, and attack of that fortress—Mijas—Observations on the persons employed by the English government to organize the Spanish peasantry; and on the application of the sums advanced by England—Continuation of the operations against Fiangerolla 17

CHAPTER III.

Brutality of the Polish commandant—Reflections on viewing our shipping—Proceed to Mijas—Return to Fiangerolla — Interview with General Sebastiani—Proceed for Malaga 37

CHAPTER IV.

Page

Malaga 50

CHAPTER V.

Brigands—March from Malaga to Grenada—Torcal—Antequera—Sierra de los Amaros—Archidona—Moorish castles—Loxa, Lachao, Santa Fé 59

CHAPTER VI.

Grenada—Punishment of the *Garrotte*—Braziers—Spanish and French repasts—Theatre—Spanish comedy—Alhambra 73

CHAPTER VII.

Grenada—Plain of Grenada—Colonial productions of Andalusia — Poles — Praises of Buonaparte — Spanish ball and pastimes—Pets—Convent of Chartreuse—Carera theatre—*Bon mot*—Breakfast *à la Provençale* 91

CHAPTER VIII.

Grenada—Defeat of Blake's army—French discipline and soldiers—Advantages of occupying the coasts of the Mediterranean—Method of separating corn from the ear—Spanish husbandry—Spanish prisoners from Blake's army—Sebastiani's birthday 110

CHAPTER IX.

From Grenada to Jaen—Mode of travelling—Appear-

Page

ance of the country—French dragoon—Alcala Reale —Escape of Spanish prisoners—Road—Convoy reinforced—Alcaudete—Countess of Superonda—German braggadocio — Martos—Jaen — French military execution 133

CHAPTER X.

Jaen to Andujar—Guadalquivir—Dinner with General Blondeau — Sporting excursion — Cookery — Convoy from Seville—Disagreeable Spanish custom 152

CHAPTER XI.

From Andujar to St. Helena—Unfeeling levity of a Pole —Baylen—Surrender of Dupont's army—Effect of the Cortes—Colonial town of Sierra Morena—Defile of Penon de los Peros—Causes of the French army forcing it 166

CHAPTER XII.

General observations on Andalusia—Soil and climate—Face of the country—Forests—Population—Effects of the French invasion—Agriculture—Horses—Manufactures — Commerce — Distinguished characters — National character—Mines—Mineral waters 178

CHAPTER XIII.

La Mancha—Contrast with Andalusia—Santa Cruz—Beauty of the country—Val de Penas—Regiment of Nassau — Convoy from France — Italian Marquis—Manzanares—Sunday evening dances..... 198

CHAPTER XIV.

Page

Toledo—Tomb of Caba—Cathedral—Roast beef and plum pudding *à la Française*—Campaign in Flanders—Sincerity of foreigners..... 219

CHAPTER XV.

From Toledo to Madrid—Tagus—Regiment of Hesse-Darmstadt—Cruelty to a poor Spaniard—Miss the mules ou the road—The General in the mud..... 236

CHAPTER XVI.

Madrid—French politeness—Adjutant de Place—Traitors — Affairs of Egypt — Plaza del Sol et Mayor — Treatment of the prisoners—French forgetfulness.... 245

CHAPTER XVII.

Madrid—Museum—Masonic meeting—Situation of the prisoners—Spanish generosity—Prado—Puerta d'Alcala—Palace of Buonavista—Palace of the Duke of Medina Sidonia 260

CHAPTER XVIII.

Madrid—French over-civility—Retiro—Prisoners' rencontre—Theatre 278

CHAPTER XIX.

Madrid—Palace—English officers' neglect of their servants—Bull-fight..... 288

CHAPTER XX.

Page

Madrid—Excursion to Lyanos—Coursing—The broach—Made a close prisoner in the Retiro—Transactions there—Give lectures on the veterinary art 303

CHAPTER XXI.

From Madrid to Burgos—Village of Guadarama—Escurial—Observations on New Castille—Ingenious piece of water machinery—Antero de Herrares 321

CHAPTER XXII.

From Segovia to Valladolid—Convoy of bread—German Baron—Santa Maria de Neva—French servant deserts—Moorish palace—Convoy attacked—German insolence—Val de Stillas—Wretched accommodation—French cruelty—English prisoners escape 347

CHAPTER XXIII.

Valladolid — General Kellerman — Parting breakfast — French dismounted dragoons—Botanical conversation—Burgos—The Cid..... 360

CHAPTER XXIV.

From Burgos to Mendragon—Generosity of a priest—Vittoria — Old Castile—Women on mules — Shoeing oxen—*Nonchalance* of a French soldier—Inveteracy of the Spaniards 375

CHAPTER XXV.

Page

From Mendragon to St. Jean de Luz, in France—Tolosa—Villa Reale—Urnieta—From St. John de Luz—Biscay 390

CHAPTER XXVI.

Bay of Biscay—Bayonne—Route to Bourdeaux 406

CHAPTER XXVII.

Bourdeaux—Comparison of the former and present state of this city — Oysters — Theatre — Modern Frenchmen 423

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Bourdeaux—Masquerade—Valet de place, &c. 443

CHAPTER XXIX.

From Bourdeaux to Perigueux—Meeting with an Officer —St. Ubes—Carnival—Killing a bullock—Digression on the state of France—Sugar of Beet-root—Conscripts —Cruelty to Spanish prisoners—Conscription 463

NARRATIVE,

&c. &c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

Motives of an expedition from Gibraltar to the vicinity of Malaga....Situation of the enemy's detachments in Andalusia....Embarkation of the troops.... Arrival at Ceuta....Spanish military negligence ....Sail for the coast of Spain....Proposal to attack Malaga.....Reasons for declining it.... Land at Calle de la Moralle....Digression respecting military orders and distinctions.

1810.

CADIZ being closely invested by the army of the Duc de Bellune, it appeared from the geographical position of the neighbouring country, that the most effectual mode of interrupting the siege, and harassing the enemy, would be to send detachments to various parts of the Spanish coast; which,

by occupying their attention, would oblige them to weaken the besieging army, in order to succour the points menaced with attack.

It was also at this time of the utmost moment to support and keep alive the animosity of the peasantry, by affording them every possible assistance; without which, their exertions would certainly grow weaker; and it was even to be feared that they might ultimately surrender themselves to the French in despair. Besides, the French army before Cadiz drawing its supplies chiefly from Seville, the *seranos* (or mountaineers) of the Sierra de Xeres, and of the chain of mountains extending from Ronda Xeres, and from hence in a south-east direction by Mijas and Fiangerolla, were particularly to be encouraged, in order to induce them to act with vigour in cutting off the enemy's supplies.

To these circumstances must also be added,

added, that in the beginning of October, information was received at Gibraltar, through various channels, that at Ronda the enemy's force consisted of only nine hundred men, *viz.* one company of grenadiers, one of riflemen, and eighty dragoons, in all two hundred and forty French; the remaining six hundred and sixty being composed of Germans, Poles, &c. upon whom little dependance could be placed. The same information stated that at Fiangerolla the enemy had but two hundred men, at Mijas but forty, and at Ronda one hundred, chiefly dragoons; while the country surrounding these ports, was said to be in the possession of a body of well armed, fierce, and exasperated mountaineers, nearly capable of keeping the French in check, having already obliged them several times to abandon St. Roque and Algeziras, with considerable loss.

The vicinity of these mountaineers, as well as the extreme badness of the road between Ronda and Fiangerolla, appeared to render it very difficult, if not impossible, for the enemy to send any reinforcement from the former to the latter place; while at the same time it was understood that much dissatisfaction reigned in Malaga, and that the inhabitants would readily unite their efforts with any force that might be sent to assist them in driving the French out of the town. Such was the situation of the enemy's detached forces, while they were carrying on the siege of Cadiz with vigour, having completed several batteries opposite the town, from whence, by means of very large mortars, they threw shells much farther than the usual distance, and thereby rendered the anchorage of our shipping very insecure.

The most certain means of checking the progress

progress of the siege, was, as I have already observed, to call the attention of the enemy to other points; and, with this idea, several expeditions had been already sent to various places with different degrees of success. In furtherance of this principle, and after a communication between the Lieutenant-Governor of Gibraltar and the Spanish Government at Cadiz, it was determined to send a force from the former place against the ports already named, as well as to co-operate with the loyalist party in Malaga.

His Excellency Lieutenant-General Campbell did me the honour of confiding to me the conduct of this expedition; and on the 10th of October I accordingly received orders to prepare for secret service, and to take under my command four companies of His Majesty's 89th regiment, amounting to three hundred rank and file,

together with five hundred German, Polish, and Italian deserters. With this force I was directed to proceed to Ceuta, where it was to be increased by the Spanish regiment of Toledo. As dispatch was an object of the first consequence, not a moment was lost, and the whole detachment was clothed, accoutred, and embarked on the same day; and as soon as I received my final instructions, I repaired on board His Majesty's ship *Topaze*, from whence I issued the necessary orders and instructions, and also prepared an address to the people of Malaga, which will be found in the Appendix.

Early in the morning of the 11th October, the squadron weighed and stood across for Ceuta; but light airs preventing our anchoring there until a late hour in the evening, I was obliged to defer going on shore till the morning. That no time might however be lost, I acquainted Major-General

neral Frazer of my arrival by letter, and requested him to expedite the embarkation of the Spanish regiment. The following morning I proceeded on shore, and breakfasted with the General, but found it impossible to prevail on him to interfere in any manner, with respect to the object of my orders; and I was therefore under the necessity of applying personally to the Spanish Governor, who received me most politely, and chearfully assured me of every assistance in his power. I must here observe, that the Spaniards of Ceuta looked on the English with the most jealous suspicion, and though General Frazer's force consisted of but one weak regiment (the second battalion of the fourth), the guns of the citadel, in which it was quartered, and which commands the town, had been all removed.

The embarkation of the Spanish troops

being completed in the forenoon, I visited several of the transports, and in some of them found the Spaniards much dissatisfied with the nature of their provisions, owing entirely to the masters adhering literally to their instructions, and issuing meat on a *maigre* day, when common sense should have pointed out to them, the propriety of serving out other species in lieu. Indeed, I have frequently observed that foreign soldiers are dissatisfied with the species of provisions they receive on board our ships; and as these complaints could be so easily remedied, it seems extraordinary that no attention has been hitherto paid to them.

The regiment of Toledo being better cloathed, and apparently composed of a more orderly set of men than the generality of Spanish soldiers at this time, I paid their Colonel some compliments on their appearance, and requested to be informed

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if they were compleat in every respect, which he assured me they were. Aware, however, of the astonishing neglect which pervaded every part of the Spanish military affairs, I did not choose to put implicit confidence in this assertion; and on enquiring minutely into the state of their arms and ammunition, I found a deficiency of one hundred and forty-eight firelocks, and that they had embarked literally without a single round of ammunition. I immediately wrote to the Spanish Governor, stating the impossibility of my supplying the latter, as our cartridges would not fit the Spanish arms. He returned a very polite answer, and the necessary ammunition was immediately sent off: the deficiency of muskets I supplied, together with one hundred cartridges for each.

Having delivered the Spanish Colonel his instructions, the squadron weighed and stood for the coast of Spain. The lightness

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of the wind rendered our passage tedious, and in the night of the 13th Captain Hall of the navy, commanding a detachment of gunboats under my orders, came on board from Gibraltar, with letters from his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. Captain Hall expressed himself very sanguinely as to the possibility of carrying Malaga by a *coup de main*, and founded his opinion on information received at Gibraltar, that the guns on the Mole had been removed; he therefore proposed that the troops should occupy the enemy's attention on the land side, while the ships bombarded the town to the eastward, and that the boats should at the same time push for the Mole, and throw a party into the town, to favour and assist an insurrection of the inhabitants. To this plan I found it impossible to give my approbation, well assured that no intelligence received from the Spaniards was to be depended on; and besides there being

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an extensive plain between the Rio Grande and Malaga, in which a large body of cavalry could act to the greatest advantage: and as I had every reason to believe that the enemy could immediately collect a force of this description, it seemed to me highly imprudent to risque encountering it, with the motley troop of foreigners that composed two-thirds of my detachment. These reasons induced me to determine on proceeding to the Calle de la Moralle, a small bay, one league east of Marabella and two west of Fiangerolla, with the intention of attacking the latter fortress, the possession of which would be of the greatest consequence to my future proceedings, as affording the means of receiving regular and certain information, as well as of organizing the peasantry, and commanding the neighbouring country.

On the morning of the 14th the *Sparrowhawk*

rowhawk joined the squadron, and I was informed that arms had been distributed to the peasants, pursuant to orders which I had previously given. At nine o'clock the squadron anchored in the bay of Calle de la Moralle, and the signals were immediately made to prepare for landing the troops, and for the boats to assemble alongside the *Topaze*. The shoalness of the water preventing the larger vessels from approaching the shore so as to cover the landing, the gunboats only were employed in that service; and having taken their station, at half past ten, the boats pushed for the shore, and the troops landed without accident or opposition on a fine sandy beach: indeed there did not appear to be any preparation whatever made by the enemy to oppose us. As soon as the troops were all formed on shore, I issued regulating orders for their movements, calculated

to

to prevent the confusion that might arise from such a mixture of nations as composed my small force, there being English, French, Italians, Spaniards, Poles and Germans. I therefore directed that all movements should be carried into execution by the sound of the bugle, and restricted the sounds to four. When tolerably perfect in this exercise, I gave orders to advance, but found the country so very mountainous, and without any road, that it was impossible the artillery could accompany us, and it was therefore of necessity sent by water.

Previous to marching I had some conversation with Captain Miller of the 95th regiment, who, with several other officers, had been latterly employed in organizing the Spanish peasants. He informed me that a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition had been distributed amongst them, and consequently that I might ex-

pect

pect a number to join me immediately; in this however I was entirely disappointed, not more than ten or twelve making their appearance. One Spaniard I am, however, bound to notice, with the praise he deserves for the loyalty and fidelity with which he has always served the cause of his country; he is well known at Gibraltar, but at the present moment it would be improper and imprudent to name him. His loyalty was entirely disinterested, and indeed it is but doing justice to the Spaniards in general to observe that their zeal seems to proceed from real patriotism, without any hope or expectation of pecuniary emolument. The services rendered to the cause by the person above alluded to, certainly entitled him to a considerable reward from the English, yet his sole request was to be permitted to wear a sash similar to that of our officers, which of course

was

was granted, and from it he seemed to derive no small share of consequence in the eyes of his countrymen. Indeed, when I observed the delight expressed by the Spaniards at receiving the smallest honorary distinction, I was surprised that the Spanish loyal government had not created a military order of merit, to reward those who might be most active and enterprising in the cause; the hope of acquiring such a distinction from their legal rulers, would not only increase emulation, but diminish the value of the distinctions conferred by the French on their partisans. The desire of chivalric distinctions is indeed universal throughout all Christian Europe: the cold phlegmatic German receives them with pleasure, and the Italian, burning with the ardour of a more genial climate, with delight; but it is in France, above all other countries, that they are sought after with the

the greatest avidity, and where they inspire their possessors with the greatest degree of vanity and self-consequence, as well as of military ardour, and the hopes of the *croix d'honneur* is perhaps the most powerful stimulant to the courage of the French soldier. When we reflect on this general feeling, we cannot account for the Junta's and Regency's having hitherto neglected the establishment of so certain and so cheap a mode of attaching the people to their cause.

CHAPTER II.

March to Fiangerolla, and attack of that fortress.... Mijas....Observations on the persons employed by the English government to organize the Spanish peasantry; and on the application of the sums advanced by England....Continuation of the operations against Fiangerolla.

THE mountains and ravines which occupy the entire space between the Calle de la Moralle and Fiangerolla, rendered our march extremely fatiguing and tedious, so that we did not get sight of the fortress till two o'clock in the afternoon; when I immediately sent in a flag of truce with a summons, which was rejected. A projecting point of land to the westward of the castle, for some time covered the gunboats in their course along shore, but on

passing this point, they became exposed to the guns of the castle, from which a heavy fire was immediately commenced on them.

I now advanced close to the work with the foreign riflemen, supported by the four companies of the 89th, when a brisk fire commenced on both sides; ours being confined to musquetry, while the enemy had the advantage of firing grape from their artillery, by which Major Grant of the 89th was mortally wounded, while receiving my directions to take possession of a small ridge of hills, which extending to the beach would have afforded cover to the regiment. I felt severely the loss of this worthy officer, who after serving the best part of his life in the 86th regiment in the East-Indies, had returned in hopes of spending the remainder of his days in his native country; but finding it still required his services, he disdained to remain in idleness. He just lived

to

to be landed at Gibraltar, where he was buried with all military honours; the whole garrison attending his funeral, and paying the last melancholy tribute of respect to his remains.

The fire from the castle continued on the gunboats, of which one was sunk, and several persons killed and wounded in the others; the troops, however, drawing a considerable part of the enemy's attention (which indeed was my motive for advancing so close), the boats were at last enabled to take their stations.

The castle I found to be infinitely stronger than it had been represented, consisting of a large square fort, situated on a hillock, of which it occupies the entire summit. Circumstanced as we were, and having information of a large body of the enemy being on its march towards us, it would have been decidedly the most advisable plan, to have attempted an escalade, had

there been any tolerable hopes of success; but, after a mature consideration of the subject, I was obliged to relinquish this idea, not only from its apparent impracticability, but also from the certain great loss of men that must have attended even its success, and which would have rendered me incapable of defending the conquest, or of any further operations.

Having succeeded in silencing the guns of the castle for a short time, I withdrew part of the troops that were too much exposed, and at the same time directed the Spanish regiment to occupy a good position on the summit of a rough commanding hill, with a difficult ravine in front, which, in the opinion of Captain Harding of the engineers and myself, was a sufficient protection from a sudden attack. The Spanish Colonel, however, now started an unexpected difficulty, namely that it was Sunday,

day, and that it was not their custom to fight on the Sabbath.* I found also that there was much discontent amongst the men of this regiment, from the want of a clergyman to perform divine service. This circumstance I could only lament, and would have cheerfully offered to officiate, had I thought myself equal to the task. Here I must observe, that during the considerable period that I have commanded either a regiment or detachment in His Majesty's service, I have always been extremely particular in enforcing a due observance of the Sabbath, not only from religious motives, but also because I have found it gradually create an orderly and proper deportment in the soldiers, which prevents the necessity of frequent punishment. On the present occasion I was, however, obliged to leave

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* The same occurrence took place at Talavera.

the church to pray for our success; and this I did with no small degree of confidence, when I reflected that the contest we were engaged in, was for the preservation of order, religion and liberty to a whole nation, against the unprovoked attacks of a people, whose constant aim and end, for the last twenty years, had been to complete their overthrow.

The vicinity of Mijas, which is but five English miles from, and in sight of Fiangerolla, making it necessary to endeavour to cut off the communication between them so as to prevent assistance being sent from the former to the latter, I therefore prevailed on the Spanish commandant to detach four companies of his regiment, together with one hundred Germans, to execute this service, by occupying the angle where two roads or pathways meet, about half a mile from Mijas, and by which the enemy must

must pass, there being no other road, and the rocks on each side inaccessible. Captain Mullins, my Brigade Major, volunteered conducting this service, and though I gave him positive orders to act only on the defensive, the importunities of the Spaniards led him to exceed these orders and to make an attack on the town, where he met a most vigorous and unexpected resistance, that obliged him to fall back rapidly on the main body of the troops.

Mijas is a small town, containing about one thousand inhabitants, and the approach to it is so difficult, that a very small force may defend it against a very large one. It is situated on the declivity of a rocky hill, the side of which, facing Fiangerolla, is inaccessible, except by a narrow and winding pathway, skirted on one side by a deep rocky ravine. A river runs at the foot of the hill, which divides into two branches;

and at the point of separation is crossed by an inconvenient bridge.

The castle of Fiangerolla commanding every point of the beach where boats could put on shore, the landing of the artillery was obliged to be postponed till night; when it was accomplished in a thunder storm, accompanied by heavy rain, which continued to pour down the whole night, and increased every rivulet to the magnitude of a river. Neither difficulty nor danger could however depress the persevering ardour of the soldiers and sailors, who before day broke had compleated a battery of two twelve-pounders and a howitzer, at the distance of three hundred and fifty yards from the castle, and on the summit of a rocky hill, the ascent to which is difficult even to an unincumbered individual. Another battery was also compleated on the beach with one thirty-two pound carronade.

The

The whole of the detachment suffered severely during this dreadful night, neither officers or men having shelter or rest; those only who have been accustomed to tropical rains can form an adequate idea of the torrents that poured down.

October 15. A little before daylight the advanced piquets were called in; and as soon as we could see each other, a heavy fire commenced on each side. A shell from our battery bursting killed most of the men at one of the enemy's guns, and silenced it for some time; our shot also destroyed part of the parapet of the castle, and left the people much exposed to our musquetry, which evidently did great execution. The walls were, however, so solid, that our small artillery could make but little impression on them; and, indeed, it would have required twenty-four pounders to make a practicable breach; nevertheless, from the supposed

supposed smallness of the garrison, as at first represented, I hoped that our shells and musquetry alone would soon oblige it to surrender, unless it received very speedy reinforcements. I was therefore greatly mortified at learning that these reinforcements had been received previous to our arrival, and as I had therefore every reason to expect that a sortie would be made, my first object was to place the troops so as to meet it with the greatest possible advantage. At the same time I received information that General Sebastiani was marching from Malaga with a large force, and though again contradicted, this intelligence was soon positively confirmed.

Lieutenant-Colonel Basset, formerly of the 5th regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Warrington, and one or two other officers joined us from the Sierras, where they had been employed in an attempt to organize the peasants,

peasants, the plan of which had been suggested to the British Government by the Duke of Infantado; and its advantages would in all probability have been extremely great, had proper attention been paid to the selection of the officers.

An officer entrusted with a service of this delicate nature, should not only possess an enterprising and active disposition, a knowledge of mankind, and a perfect acquaintance with the language of the country, but his circumstances should also be such as to make him totally dependant on his talents and exertions for advancement. Such persons would have been invaluable in Spain, and many such might doubtless have been found in London, languishing in involuntary idleness, who would have been happy to accept such an employment, and by whose exertions the peasantry might have been better organized, and roused to a more

a more efficient resistance, which must have ultimately succeeded in delivering their country from its lawless and cruel invaders. The expulsion of the Moors affords the Spaniards a grand example of what their nation is capable of performing; and this example is deeply impressed on the minds of all classes. In that contest, as well as in the present, the Spaniards were at first defeated; but the loss of a battle served only to inspire fresh energy, while it taught them to correct their military faults, and the most perfect success crowned their perseverance. I cannot quit this subject, which perhaps has led me into too long a digression, without doing justice to Captain Miller of the 95th regiment, who being perfectly acquainted with the Spanish language, had been of the utmost service in uniting the peasantry, and had acquired an extended knowledge of the country in general

neral, and of the strong passes of the mountains in particular. The reports of this officer, which I have had different opportunities of seeing, appeared to be very judicious.

Another circumstance, in some measure connected with the above observation, should not be passed over, namely, the large sums advanced by England for the Spanish cause, and over the expenditure of which no efficient control has been hitherto established, whence it is at least possible they may not be always applied to the intended purposes. When I was at Gibraltar a person named Moretti resided there, who assumed the title of General, and who was entrusted with the distribution of large sums, in which employment he contrived to enrich himself, until arousing the jealousy or suspicion of the Spanish government, he was recalled to Cadiz,

Cadiz, to undergo an enquiry, of the result of which I am ignorant. This *soi-disant* General I had formerly seen at Palermo, where he was one of the principal performers in the orchestra of the opera, and an excellent musician. I must do him the justice to say that he appeared to be active and intelligent in his new employment, and his musical talents rendered him peculiarly agreeable to the Spanish ladies, who are great admirers of that art. Here I must claim a general indulgence for the digressions I may be occasionally led into in the course of this narrative, which though not always immediately connected with the main subject, I trust will tend to enliven the otherwise dry recital of military operations.

On the certain confirmation of the intelligence that Sebastiani was marching against us with a large force, I considered the

the best means of opposing a successful resistance with my small and badly composed detachment. I therefore, in company with Captain Harding, minutely examined the ground; in doing which we were several times exposed to a heavy fire of musquetry from the castle. I found that the position we occupied was well suited for operations against the latter, but not so for defence against such a superior force as I had reason to expect, and which my intelligence stated to be four thousand seven hundred infantry, eight hundred cavalry, and sixteen pieces of artillery, commanded by General Sebastiani in person; while my whole force now amounted only to fourteen hundred infantry, and three pieces of artillery. The reason already assigned for not landing the artillery by daylight, namely, the exposure of the beach to the guns of the castle, operated in like manner to prevent

prevent its re-embarkation; and being determined not to abandon it, nothing was left but to make preparations for receiving the enemy in the best manner possible; for this purpose I intended to have made some alterations in our position by occupying a ruined tower, capable of containing about fifty men, having a ridge of hills extending on its right and the sea close behind it; time was not however allowed me to accomplish this intention.

At this moment His Majesty's ship *Rodney*, with a Spanish line of battle ship, appeared off the coast, and I learnt that they had on board the 82d regiment, one thousand strong, which had been sent from Gibraltar to reinforce me; my anxiety to receive them was of course very great, and boats were immediately sent off to assist in landing them.

My principal fear was that the enemy's cavalry

cavalry would charge on the beach and gain our rear; to prevent which, if possible, I went with Captain Hall in a gun-boat, with the intention of placing two boats on each flank so as to rake the beach; these boats were so close to the shore that I could have gone and returned in five minutes. During this arrangement, a desperate sortie was made from the castle by about six hundred and fifty infantry and sixty cavalry, and entirely directed to the left, where the Spanish and other foreign troops were posted, who fled with scarce any resistance, and abandoned the artillery to the enemy. At this moment I observed the boats with the troops had pushed off from the ships, and were fast approaching the shore, which gave me hopes of being still able to retrieve the day, both from the strength of our position, and from my confidence in the 82d regiment; I therefore

immediately formed the 89th, and, though consisting of only two hundred and eighty men, retook the guns by the bayonet. In advancing to the charge my horse was wounded, and soon after killed by a second shot, so that I was obliged to charge on foot. After a short but very severe contest, the enemy wheeled and fled; at the same moment a strong body came running across us in front, drest precisely similar to the Spanish troops, and a cry of "*they are* "*Spaniards!*" at the same time took place. I therefore ceased firing for a few minutes, both in order to form the troops more regularly, and to ascertain whether this body was really Spaniards or French, as well as to economize the ammunition which began to fall short. Unfortunately I was not supported by the artillery, now again in our possession, and the enemy had only blown up a part of the ammunition, leaving

ing several loose rounds of grape in the battery, which, had they been employed, must have done great execution. Being dismounted I could not go to the left sufficiently quick to ascertain whether the approaching body were French or Spaniards: I soon, however, observed a column close in from the left, on whose caps I perceived the number 4 with an eagle, and which proved to be the quatrième Polonois. The troops with me, after firing a few rounds, charged this column, and a very severe conflict ensued, which unfortunately ended in my being made prisoner, having but nine men remaining of those that advanced with me.

Those only who have suffered a similar fate can form any idea of my sensations at being thus obliged to surrender to a ferocious banditti, who loaded me with every vile epithet, but in whose outrageous vio-

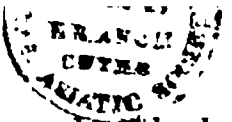
lence I in great measure found my personal safety, for they crowded so thick on me that they had not room to give force to their blows. They tore my cloaths, rifled my pockets, and attempted to pull off my epaulets, and the resistance I made to this last indignity procured me several blows from the butt ends of their muskets, that covered me with contusions. I was indeed probably indebted for my life to a Lieutenant Petit, of the Polish regiment, who opportunely came up on horseback; he was the only French officer in the corps, and his humane and gentlemanly conduct did honour to his country.

CHAPTER III.

Brutality of the Polish commandant....Reflections on viewing our shipping....Proceed to Mijas....Return to Fiangerolla....Interview with General Sebastiani....Proceed for Malaga.

On entering the castle I was met by Captain Makosovitz, a Pole, who commanded, accompanied by several other officers; the former accosted me in the most brutal language, demanding "if it "was I who had the insolence to send "him in a flag of truce, and who had "caused so much bloodshed," at the same time pointing to three houses in which the dead bodies were collected. To this I replied, "that it was to prevent the effusion "of blood that I had sent in a flag of "truce, and that he would indeed have

" had reason to complain had I not done " so." The scene that presented itself at this moment can never be effaced from my memory; both officers and soldiers had all the appearance of those desperate banditti described in romances; their long moustachios, their faces blackened by smoke and gunpowder, and their bloody and torn cloaths, giving to their whole appearance a degree of indescribable ferocity. Makosovitz conducted me up stairs with the other officers made prisoners, and the scene here was worse than that below, the surgeons being employed in dressing the officers, of whom scarce one escaped without a wound or contusion. More melancholy from the thoughts of my captivity than from the pain of my bruises, which was however sufficiently acute, I went on the rampart, from whence I had a full view of the shipping. The fort was still



still firing at the *Rodney*, and at the boats with the troops, which approached close to the shore. A few minutes would have brought them to my assistance, and they would certainly have changed the fortune of the day in my favour; but fate ordered it otherwise. While thus absorbed in my own melancholy reflections, I could not help exclaiming, as I looked on the *Rodney* and *Topaze*, *there* is the ship where a few days since I dined in social friendship, and *there* the frigate which brought me to this shore, rejoicing in the sanguine hope of serving my country; all on board them are free, while I am doomed to pass an indefinite period in captivity, deprived of the society of all those who are dear to me in the world! What, thought I, will my country say of my failure, or how will it appreciate my conduct in this unfortunate day? Will not the people, who too often

estimate merit by success, will they not overlook the insurmountable difficulties I had to encounter, and consider want of success as want of merit: although hitherto fortunate in every enterprize with which I have been charged, and thought worthy the approbation of my superior officers, will not these successes be sunk in oblivion, while my present failure is alone remembered?

From the indulgence of this melancholy soliloquy I was roused by the Polish commandant slapping me violently on the shoulder, and addressing me with, "*Allons, camarade, venez boire un coup d'eau de vie; vous n'êtes pas chez vous!*"—Indeed this observation was too literally true, for I never felt less at home in my life. I accompanied him however to a room, in which every thing was in disorder, and where officers and soldiers were promiscuously

ously helping themselves to *agua ardiente*, from jars, while a succession of ruffians was every moment entering and displaying the spoils taken from our unfortunate soldiers made prisoners, or drest in the clothes and accoutrements stripped from the dead; the entrance of each of these plunderers was loudly applauded by bravos from the whole assembly. In order to shew their good fellowship, some one or other of this banditti would every moment slap me on the back, crying, "*Allons, camarade, buvons, buvons!*" The torment I suffered from my bruises, which produced a spitting of blood, was much increased by these acts of manual kindness; nevertheless, knowing I should meet no commiseration, I concealed my feelings and suffered in silence; and accepted some *agua ardiente* and water, which was the first thing I had tasted for twenty-four hours.

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As soon as an opportunity occurred of conversing with my fellow prisoners, we naturally began to enquire into the causes of our capture; when I learned that most of the Germans had deserted to the enemy. Having rested nearly two hours in the castle, I was, with the rest of the prisoners, ordered to Mijas, and after being paraded, we set off with a strong escort of cavalry and infantry; Ensign Hopper and the rest of the wounded remaining in the castle. Lieutenant Petit, of whom I have before spoken, provided me with a horse, and the other officers were furnished with mules or asses. On our arrival at Mijas the officers were sent to a public house, and the soldiers confined in the prison. I was particularly honoured by having four centinels placed over me, besides a Polish officer for a companion. The good people of the house in which I was billeted, were all kindness and humanity,

nity; they immediately brought me some vinegar to wash my contusions, and drest me some eggs. Whenever the Polish officer quitted the room, the mother and daughter would enter, and sympathising in my misfortune, would lament it with tears in their eyes. Here I passed the first part of a miserable night; for at three o'clock in the morning (October 16), I was called up to return to Fiangerolla to meet General Sebastiani. Though in the greatest pain I was obliged to mount a horse, and was escorted by one hundred dragoons, and several officers, while the rest of the prisoners were ordered to proceed direct to Malaga.

On approaching Fiangerolla, I observed the General surrounded by a large body of troops, and was immediately presented to him. After the first salutation, he enquired what had become of my sword, and

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on my answering that I supposed some of the officers or soldiers had it in their possession, General Milhaw instantly took off his own and presented it to me, saying, "Monsieur le Général, here is one which "has been employed in all the campaigns "against the Austrians, Russians, and "Prussians, and it is now much at your "service." This speech, though tinctured with the vanity natural to a Frenchman, was applauded by the bravos of both officers and soldiers who were within hearing; I accepted the sword, and indeed felt somewhat gratified at being paid such a public compliment by an enemy.

I begged permission of the General to visit the scene of action, which was readily granted, and two of his aides de camp, one of whom was his brother, were directed to accompany me. The scene was such as a recent field of battle usually exhibits; it

was

was strewed with the naked and terribly mangled bodies of the soldiers of both parties. Such a scene would probably have lost much of its effect on my feelings, had fortune favoured instead of deserting me; but now the melancholy reflections on my situation, almost made me regret not having shared the fate of the gallant fellows that had fallen around me. On my return from the field I entered into conversation with the General, who, as well as his aides de camp, soon recollected me as having served in Egypt; and their attentions from this time were redoubled.

Quitting Fiangerolla we passed through a very mountainous country, and by a rugged pathway, not deserving the name of road, and which skirting the sea, I had still the mortification of contemplating our shipping cruising in the offing, and observed that they had been joined by the

Circe

Circe frigate. The manner in which the French conveyed their artillery through this mountainous track is worthy of notice; two light pieces balancing each other are slung one on each side of a mule, their carriages are carried in like manner on another, and the ammunition boxes which are moveable on a third.

After passing through the romantic village of Belameda, we arrived at Torre a Molinas, a small town with about fifteen hundred inhabitants. Here we put up at the house of a priest, in which we found every thing clean and comfortable, and the General's staff and some other officers, in all thirty-six persons, sat down to an excellent breakfast of cold and hot meats, pies, &c. At this place the detachment from Mijas joined us, and the officers signed a parole; this, however, seemed to be a very useless formality, for they were escorted by a strong

a strong detachment, in the centre of which they were placed; a necessary precaution, as it was affirmed, to prevent their falling into the hands of the brigands, whose parties were represented as formidable in this part of the country. Their concern lest I should straggle, and fall in with any of these bands was so great, that although I had also given my parole I was always attended by an officer, who repeatedly assured me that he accompanied me solely from this apprehension. It is easy to conceive how much I differed from him on this subject, for though I was well treated by the General and his staff, no condemned culprit ever looked with more anxiety to a rescue, than I did to the appearance of a formidable body of brigands coming to my relief. Discretion, however, directed me to conceal my hopes and wishes, and although I did not believe a word of

my

my companion's assurances, I replied to them all with a "*Monsieur, vous êtes bien* "*bon!*" and on his repeating his expressions of care and tenderness for my safety, I could only change the note to "*Monsieur,* "*vous êtes bien aimable!*" at which it was impossible for him to forbear smiling, while he persisted in his absurd declamations. However it may be with their other qualities, we must cede to the French the palm of dissimulation, in which indeed they are perfect masters; they not only justify and glory in the grossest deceit, but often gain the approbation of the spectators, by glossing it over with the name of finesse.

Within a few leagues of Malaga the country totally changed its appearance. Instead of the rugged mountains and barren rocks over which we had hitherto passed, we now entered a most luxuriant and highly cultivated plain, covered with gardens

gardens and vineyards, and dotted with handsome villas, of which the *façades* having generally a colonnade gave them a rich and, at the same time, a rural appearance. We crossed the Rio Guadajo by a ford, where the water was up to our saddle skirts, though at times it is nearly dry, being like all streams in the vicinity of mountains subject to very sudden rises and falls. At this river it was that Captain Hall proposed leading the troops to attack Malaga by a *coup de main;* I now found that my objections to this plan had been perfectly well founded, for here is an extensive plain in which cavalry could act to the greatest advantage, and the enemy had in and about Malaga, a large and well appointed force of that description.

CHAPTER IV.

Malaga.

We entered Malaga amidst a great concourse of people, by a wide and handsome street, that leads to the Mole and harbour. Our cavalcade passing through the streets had an imposing appearance, which could not but annoy me. Circumstanced as the French are in Spain, every species of military parade is politic, and besides it costs them nothing, for the inhabitants are obliged to defray all expenses of this nature, and indeed the contributions levied on the people of Malaga were at this time enormous and loudly complained of.

The disagreeable sensation of being gazed at by the multitude, increased by observing that

that the General seemed to wish to exhibit the prisoners, for the mere gratification of his vanity, made me anxious to get under cover, and I would indeed have given any thing to have been allowed to retire quietly and indulge my melancholy reflections, as well as to procure the rest and tranquillity necessary to the state of my health. These consolations were, however, denied me, for on entering the house appropriated to the General, we found it filled with public functionaries, waiting to pay their respects to him. I was obliged to submit to the fatigue and plague of a ceremonious introduction to this assembly, and afterwards to sit down with a large party to dinner, which, according to the French custom, was very short, not exceeding three quarters of an hour at table. In this respect the French and English differ greatly: — the short dinners of the former are far from being to

the taste of the latter when in health and spirits. Amongst the guests was Mr. Kilpatrick, a Scotch gentleman of excellent character, who had long been established here in a commercial line, and acted as American Consul. After dinner I accompanied this gentleman to his house, where I found a large party, or *converzatione*, assembled, and the solicitations of my host obliged me to remain and partake of an elegant supper, at which thirty persons sat down.

The following morning (October 17), I rose early, being anxious to see the state of the fortifications towards the sea, and for that purpose I proceeded to the Mole, and found that, instead of the guns having been removed from it, it had a formidable battery of fourteen twenty-four pounders in excellent order, with furnaces for heating shot; and the Mole not being more than the

the height of a frigate's quarter-deck above the water, I am convinced no fleet could hope for success in attacking it; and beyond all doubt the little squadron from which I landed would have ran the risk of almost certain destruction in the attempt. I felt therefore happy that I had resisted the proposals to that effect.

From the Mole I walked to a spot from whence I had a good view of the citadel, a very strong work, well situated on an eminence, though said to be commanded, which, together with its supposed defenceless state as reported by persons who had long resided here, led to the general belief at Gibraltar that little difficulty would be met with in its reduction; on the contrary, however, the citadel was in the most perfect state, mounting thirty-six pieces of heavy ordnance, six twelve pounders, and four mortars, with military stores and provisions

for a garrison of two thousand men for two or three months; besides, the eminence which commands it is distant fourteen hundred yards. In short, it was at this time capable of holding out against an army thrice the number of its garrison for a considerable time. From this specimen we may judge of the little dependance to be placed on the information received from the Spaniards; and this inaccuracy is the less easy to be accounted for, when we recollect that the inhabitants of the country being generally loyalists their reports may reasonably be supposed worthy of credit; the contrary has, however, been too generally the case, as is evident from the experience of Sir John Moore, and indeed of every person who has been connected with the Spaniards during the present struggle. It appears but justice to attribute this effect rather to the too hasty judgments of an

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over ardent zeal, than to any intention to mislead, for though the Spaniards may have many faults as a people, they possess a distinguished place among modern nations for honour, and a strict adherence to truth.

Having finished my promenade, I went by invitation to breakfast with the Governor, whom I found to be a Frenchman, and not behind any of his compatriots in volubility of speech, or rather incessant rattle. By the General's permission, in the course of the forenoon, I sent on board the squadron for my baggage; for hitherto I had been dependant on the General for changes of linen, having with me only the suit of cloaths in which I was made prisoner. I also took this opportunity of detailing our situation by letter. A numerous party were invited to meet me at dinner at Mr. Kilpatrick's, and though I wished for quietness, yet politeness and propriety

obliged me to join a party assembled on my account.

On the morning of the 18th I received a notification to prepare to proceed immediately to Grenada with General Sebastiani, a journey which I endeavoured to get excused from on account of my ill health, but without success; the General in the politest manner stating the impossibility of my remaining at Malaga, and offering me a carriage if I found myself unable to ride. Our short stay at Malaga afforded me little opportunity of gaining information respecting it: I observed, however, that the favourable impression of its beauty received on entering it, by the handsome street I have mentioned, is soon done away, the greater part of the other streets being narrow and crooked. The Plaza Mayor itself is by no means worthy of its name:—it has, however, in the centre

centre a handsome marble fountain. The cathedral and custom-house are worthy of the traveller's notice; the latter is a new edifice on an extensive and noble plan. The antiquary will find in this town the remains of a Roman temple.

The population of Malaga is between thirty and forty thousand souls, and though it still retains some external appearance of its former prosperity, it is but the unsubstantial shadow of departed reality. The total cessation of commerce, and the losses consequent on the war, have produced innumerable bankruptcies and universal distress; the port, which is daily growing shallower from the mud carried into it by the Gua del Medina, has lost all appearance of commercial life, some fishing boats alone being seen in movement, while a few polacres, feluccas, and other smaller vessels are laid up rotting. What a contrast

trast with the former flourishing commerce of this city, whose annual exports were valued at near half a million sterling in wines, brandy, oil, fruits, anchovies, and some silks. Its imports, which consisted in woollens, hardware, cheese, butter, and salt fish, did not exceed half the value of its exports. Such have been the desolating effects of the unprovoked and unjustifiable invasion of the French, which, if successful, must shake the throne of every legitimate prince of Europe; for who shall then dare setting bounds to the ambition of Buonaparte, or say to him, "thus far "shalt thou go, and no farther?"

CHAPTER V.

Brigands.... March from Malaga to Grenada.... Torcal.... Antequera.... Sierra de los Amaraos ....Archidona.... Moorish castles.... Loxa, Lachao, Santa Fé.

THE wounded having been provided for, the prisoners were marched off from Malaga early in the morning, and at half past ten o'clock a body of one thousand cavalry, composed of the 16th dragoons, a regiment of Lanciers Polonois and detachments of other corps were paraded, and a number of carriages and baggage-waggons drawn out for departure. Having no desire to exhibit myself in this pageant, I requested and received permission to proceed through a different part of the town, half a league outside of which I was to join

join the General. Monsieur Lavoisteen, one of his aides-de-camp, with an escort, was ordered to accompany me, and we joined him at the appointed place. To my surprise I found the road equal to any turnpike road in England, contrary to our information at Gibraltar, which stated it to be generally broken up by the brigands, who were said to be in such force as to keep the French in continual alarm. In fact, the country being extremely mountainous and the passes difficult, even an irregular body of this nature might have resisted all the attempts of the French, and have kept possession of the country, had they taken the necessary precaution to destroy the bridges and break up the roads, neither of which they seem to have thought of.

A few horsemen appearing on the summit of a hill, a detachment of the Lanciers

ciers Polonois was ordered to reconnoitre them, while the convoy halted to take some refreshment at a small house on the road side. The Poles ascended the hill with great rapidity, and soon returned with five horses, reporting that they belonged to the brigands, of whom they had killed seven. The General with an air of triumph bid me observe the cattle on which our Allies were mounted, while some of his suite, taking their tone from him, observed, "*voilà les "Alliés de l'Angleterre!*" These animals were indeed most wretched, and a kind of pad on which the country people convey their things to market served for saddles. From this, as well as other circumstances, I firmly believe that these brigands were in reality nothing more than a party of inoffensive peasants, whom the Poles had robbed of their horses, in order to corroborate the detail of their prowess; besides it was considered

considered as a sufficient proof of brigandage for the peasants to be found in the smallest number at any distance from their villages.

The escort was augmented by a detachment of the 10th dragoons near Antequera, where we arrived so late in the evening that the General's cooks had not time to exert their abilities to the full, and we were obliged to content ourselves with a scanty repast. I could not help remarking the distance at which the General kept the inferior officers, whose stomachs even he appeared to have reduced to discipline; for though about twenty-six of them sat down to supper at the same time, not one of them touched any thing until the general officers had done. During this repast the Alcaide and principal persons of the town paid their respects to the General, who received them with the greatest affability,

and

and informed them of the heavy contributions it would be necessary to lay them under, with such grace and good humour, that they seemed to depart perfectly satisfied. The manner of the General, indeed, afforded an excellent lesson in the art of levying contributions.

The distance between Malaga and Antequera is eight Spanish leagues, or about thirty-six English miles; the road ascends the whole way, and is skirted with vineyards, which afford the well known Malaga wine. The scenery is extremely romantic, being diversified by steep rocks cloathed with wood, fertile and well cultivated vallies, with abundance of fruit trees, particularly almonds, and extensive fields of melons. Within a league of Antequera the mountains afford a most singular appearance: rocks of various forms are seen as if shaped by art to represent a town, with its

its streets, churches, towers, houses, fountains, &c. together with men, women, and animals, particularly camels; from the clefts of these rocks shoot out various shrubs and plants, which compleat the extraordinary aspect of this spot, called, I believe, Torcal, and celebrated for its beautiful marble.

Antequera, probably the Anticaria of the Romans, and by some supposed to be built on the ruins of the ancient Sirigilis, is one of the most ancient towns of Spain. It is situated on the declivity of a hill, and is divided into the upper and lower town; through the latter runs the rivulets of La Villa and Guadalorce, which turn many mills near the town, and also supply it with water from several handsome fountains. On the summit of the hill is a Moorish castle, commanding the town, and which the French have put into a respectable

respectable state of defence. Antequera contains between thirteen and fourteen thousand inhabitants; it has given birth to some celebrated men, particularly Antonio Mohedano, a painter, and Solano Loque, a physician, who made some important discoveries in medicine in the last century.

My quarters here were at the house of an old priest whose sister and her family resided with him, from all of whom I received the greatest attention and considerable information. I was indeed glad to get away from the General's society as soon as possible after dinner, in order to enjoy a segar in quietness, together with the conversation of the family on which I was billeted; and as I was never accompanied by any Frenchman, I was always certain of being received with kindness and without reserve. My desire of retiring from the General's society was not, however, from

any want of attention on his part; on the contrary, I met with every politeness, both from him and his suite, and after leaving Malaga my restraint was merely nominal. These attentions I probably owed to my acquaintance with many of the ancient French noblesse, of whom Sebastiani, and indeed all other Frenchmen high in station whom I have lately met with, speak with the greatest respect, and are happy when they can trace any relationship to them. The General's staff was generally of this order, and their manners were so engaging and their attentions so polite, that I found myself perfectly at ease amongst them, and came ultimately to be considered as one of the establishment, with the character of a *parfaitement bon garçon.* Du Cogni, one of the aides-de-camp (of the family of the celebrated Marshal Du Cogni), to whose sister Sebastiani is married, in particular

ticular deserves my warmest remembrance for the liberality of his sentiments and conduct, so different from the herd of modern *parvenus*. To the Adjutant-Général de Bouillé I was also indebted for much civility; with this officer I had formerly been acquainted, when he commanded the Hulans Britanniques, in the campaigns of Holland in 1794 and 1795, the events of which afforded us much matter of conversation.

Leaving Antequera early in the morning (Oct. 19) we passed through a generally level country, with a few scattered hills, the whole fertile and well cultivated, and arrived at a narrow defile, formed by a high mountain on the left and a lesser one on the right: the former is named Sierra de los Amaraos, or the Lover's Mountain, from a traditional tale that a Moorish prince precipitated himself from its summit in despair,

at being prohibited by his religion from marrying a Christian Princess, with whom he had fallen in love. However this may be, the defile would form an excellent military post for a small detachment. In the course of this day's march I chiefly attached myself to General Milhaud, who had distinguished himself during the revolution as a cavalry officer. Our conversation now, however, chiefly turned on the subject of good living, for the General appeared to be a *bon vivant* in the utmost extent of the term, and expressed the greatest delight when I happened to hit on a good dish, or made an *à propos* quotation from the *Journal des Gourmands*, the bible of French epicures.

At Archidona we halted to breakfast, which, since leaving Malaga, has always been as substantial a repast as dinner, consisting of rich ragoûts and other made dishes,

dishes, with all the fruits of the season, but more particularly melons. The wine we have met with on the road has, however, been much inferior to the eatables, but the French seem to have little discrimination in this respect, and therefore swallow it without complaining. A great concourse of people assembled to view our cavalcade, among whom were a number of women, conspicuous for their fine countenances and simple dress. At breakfast we were attended by four extremely pretty girls, whom the French officers, to shew their gallantry, pinched and pulled about, until the poor girls were afraid to approach the table, and although I did not join in tormenting them, I suffered as if I had, and was obliged to assist myself.

Archidona, as well as most of the towns in the Grenadines, is romantically situated at the foot of a hill, whose summit is

crowned with a Moorish castle. These places, which compleatly command the towns and overawe the inhabitants, have all been repaired and put into a state of defence by the French. The neglect of the Spaniards, in not occupying the castle at the commencement of the invasion, is totally unaccountable, being from their situations defensible by very small garrisons, and the possession of them would have enabled the loyalists to annoy the French by that harassing and desultory warfare, by which they suffer more than by pitched battles. Archidona was formerly the property of the Duke d'Assuyne, but the French Emperor has been graciously pleased to appropriate it to himself, and the inhabitants have the peculiar blessing of enjoying the immediate protection of Napoleon-le-Grand. " *Ces gens sont assez* " *heureux en appartenant particulièrement* " *à l'Em-*

"*à l'Empereur*," added Sebastiani, after informing me of this circumstance; "*Quel "bonheur!*" replied I, and left him to put his own construction on the ambiguous exclamation.

From Archidona to Loxa, where we arrived in the evening, the road was indifferent, passing through extensive groves of olive trees; oil, together with saffron, being the principal productions of this part of the country. Loxa is situated on a hill rising from the banks of the Xenil, or Genil; it contains nothing worth notice, except some extensive saltpetre and copper works.

We commenced our march from Loxa early in the morning of the 20th (October), and I availed myself of the polite offer of Major Grotowski, commanding the 9th Polonois, to take a seat in his carriage, a great unwieldy machine drawn by eight mules. Besides the Major and two other

persons, we had the company of a Signor Chevarial, a Spaniard, holding a situation under the invading government. There being a pack of cards in the carriage, we played at Trente et Quarante till we reached Lachao, where we halted to breakfast. This village had been totally destroyed by the French, and the greater part of the inhabitants massacred, but was now partly rebuilt. The surrounding country is fertile and well watered by the Xenil, which falls into the Guadalquivir at Seville.

From Lachao our next stage was Santa Fé, a strong town, where we were joined by Generals Purmurent and Roison, with the 12th regiment of dragoons, in order to render Sebastiani's entrance into Grenada more imposing.

CHAPTER VI.

Grenada....Punishment of the *Garrote*....Braziers .... Spanish and French repasts.... Theatre.... Spanish comedy....Alhambra.

Our entry into Grenada was conducted with the greatest parade. After passing through several streets we arrived at the Plaza di Triompha, in which a great concourse of people was assembled, to witness a scene very different from what the name of the place would seem to denote. In the centre of the square is a large gallows, with a staircase to ascend by, and on the right a *garrote*, the mode of execution by which deserves notice. On a platform are placed a number of stools, with a perpendicular post behind each; the criminal being

ing seated on the stool, an iron collar is placed round his neck, and the executioner by the turn of a screw puts an end to his existence in a moment. This is an old Spanish punishment, and seems to be one of the easiest kinds of death. Scarce a day passes without several similar executions, the sufferers being mostly those whom the French stigmatize with the names of rebels and brigands, but to whom the page of history will accord those of loyalists and patriots.

Passing from the Plaza di Triompha through some narrow streets, followed by the stupid mob, shouting *viva! viva!* we reached the palace, a large uncomfortable building, formerly the royal residence when the Court visited Grenada, but now occupied by Sebastiani. The arrangement of the apartments in this edifice, as well indeed as in most Spanish mansions, is exceedingly

ingly inconvenient. Long suites of rooms leading through each other, without any secondary outlet, obliges you to pass through the whole range to reach the innermost; indeed, the Spaniards have great pride in throwing open all the doors, and affording their visitors an uninterrupted view of a range of saloons. Though the winters are sometimes severe in this part of Spain, the luxury of a fire-side is still unknown, the apartments being warmed by braziers, or large brass pans, two-thirds filled with hot ashes and charcoal, the smell of which is extremely disagreeable, and the effects injurious to the health; besides, the degree of heat they afford is but just sufficient to create a wish for more.

Immediately after our arrival at the palace, Sebastiani was waited on by the chief civil and military authorities, and I was conducted

conducted to lodgings assigned me at the house of M. Millones, collector of the contributions for the French, whose wife and family received me with civility, and hoped (in the common complimentary style) that I would consider every thing in their house entirely at my disposal. With respect to their table there was little danger of my presuming much on their invitation, for Spanish repasts are little suited to an Englishman's palate, being chiefly composed of meats swimming in rancid oil, and of luscious and cloying sweetmeats, so that even the French, whose stomachs are much more accommodating than ours, (and who, although *ils sont des braves gens*, are not conspicuous for modesty in declining invitations in general,) excuse themselves from those of the Spaniards.

Having dressed myself as well as the circumstances of my wardrobe would admit, I proceeded to dine at the palace, where

where I was certain of finding a repast very different from that of my host's, the General's cooks being masters of their art, and so necessary are their services deemed, that three of them always travel in his suite. Indeed, in every respect the General's establishment is superb, and well calculated, not only to acquire the respect of the Spaniards, but also to maintain the dignity of his elevated situation with his own troops. He had brought some English cheese and porter from Malaga, as he thought proper to say, for me; but it appeared that the French officers were at least equal amateurs of the latter, and those who tasted it, (for there was not sufficient for all), exclaimed, " *Dieu, qu'elle* " *est bonne, la bierre porterre!*" After dinner I accompanied the General to the theatre; an old building wretchedly fitted up, but which is to be replaced by a magnificent

nificent one erected by the French, and which it was intended to open on Sebastiani's birth-day. The attention of the General to me was here greater than I could have wished, for he insisted on placing me in a crimson and gold chair, peculiarly destined for himself, while he occupied a common rush bottom one by me; but the splendour of my seat formed much too great a contrast with my old regimental coat, which had suffered greatly when I was made prisoner. This marked attention to me was, however, probably more political than sincere; for the French General who had preceded Sebastiani at Grenada, having treated the Spanish prisoners with the most barbarous severity, Sebastiani now hoped to soften the recollection of these atrocities, by proving that all the officers of his nation did not treat prisoners with the same inhumanity.

The

The piece performed this evening was a long farce, the humour of which, though it would not have saved it from certain damnation on the poorest country stage of England, gave the greatest delight to the Spanish audience. A countryman enters a barber's shop, and bargains with the master to take off his beard and that of his companion for six *quarts*.* The barber, however, desires to see this companion before he commences on the countryman, but this the latter slily avoids, and the barber proceeds and finishes the operation. The countryman then goes out to seek his companion, and immediately returns with an ass, which put the audience into an extacy of delight: the barber hesitates at first to fulfil his bargain, but, sooner than lose his money, at last fixes his shaving cloth under the

* A copper coin not quite the value of a halfpenny.

the animal's chin, and is about to commence, when another traveller enters and interrupts him, &c. A judgment may be formed of the Spanish comedies in general from this specimen, few of them having a more rational plot to recommend them. The house was miserably lighted, but as the chief motive of a number of the spectators for frequenting it seemed to be founded on gallantry, this darkness visible was convenient. From the theatre I retired immediately to bed, and rested well in spite of damp sheets and bugs: I had indeed of late been so much accustomed to companions of this description, that I should now have almost felt myself solitary without them. The following morning I felt much pain, and was seized with a spitting of blood, caused by the exercise of riding in my bruised state. I was not, however, allowed to remain quiet, being

expected

expected to breakfast at the General's, where a large company always assembled at eleven o'clock, and this repast, which was almost as substantial as the dinner, was at noon. These *déjeûnés à la fourchette*, which are now universal among the French, have the disagreeable consequence of making those unused to them heavy and incapable of exertion during the rest of the day.

After breakfast the General proposed a ride to the Alhambra, a palace of the Moorish kings, of which I had heard and read so much that I was very anxious to visit it. It is situated on the summit of a hill which entirely commands the town, and whose foot is washed by the rivers Darro and Xenil. The sides of the hill are covered with wood, and the ascent is so steep, that it has been necessary to form a winding road up to the palace. The

entrance to this vast pile is through a Moorish archway, surmounted by a square tower, which is called the gate of judgment: over the gate is a key in marble, and above it at a little distance a hand, the meaning of which device is said to be that the fortress will be taken by the enemy when the hand takes hold of the key.

The first apartments we entered were the chambers of audience and of justice, neither of which are so large as might have been expected from the purposes to which they were assigned. The floors are composed of a kind of mosaic, and from the ceilings project a variety of fantastic figures. We next entered a gallery of an oblong form but not large, containing several pictures of the Moorish and Christian kings of Spain; and from hence we proceeded to the apartments of the royal family, in each of which, in an alcove, is a fountain for water, and near the

alcove

alcove an elevation of curious workmanship in porcelain, on which the bed was placed. The queen's dressing room is a most singular apartment, and affords great scope for conjecture respecting the dress and ornaments of the Moorish princesses. In this cabinet is a marble urn, pierced with small apertures to emit the vapours of the perfumes that were kept continually burning in it. To this suite of apartments are attached three baths, the king's, queen's, and royal children's, and a music hall, surrounded by an elevated gallery, in which I suppose the audience sat while the orchestra was placed in the centre. From these apartments we descended into an oblong court paved with white marble, and surrounded by a gallery supported by marble columns. The walls and ceiling of the gallery are covered with mosaic, grotesque paintings, and figures of stucco in relief,

of delicate workmanship, intermixed with Arabic sentences from the koran. The middle of this court is occupied by a large bason of running water deep enough to swim in, and which served as a bath for the royal household. It is surrounded by orange trees and flowers. Descending a few steps from this court we entered another, on one side of which is the chamber of execution, having in the middle a marble bason about three feet deep, sloping gradually inwards, on the edge of which the victims were decapitated, and the blood received into the bason.

Some of the apartments have been fitted up in the modern style by Sebastiani, which certainly is no proof of his good taste, for a Parisian *salon* or *boudoir* in a Moorish palace five hundred years old, is almost as absurd as dressing an antique statue in the costume of a modern *petit maître*. We next

next visited the garden, which is well stocked with a variety of fruit trees :—it was now putting into order, having been neglected since the disturbances in the country. Crossing the court on our return from the garden, I observed at some distance the statues of Ferdinand and Isabella.

The Alhambra is surrounded by a high wall, flanked with towers and a kind of bastions, in which the cannon are mounted, pointing towards the city, to overawe the inhabitants into tranquillity. Looking over the parapet of the wall, a view of the whole town and of the neighbouring country, which is highly cultivated, and pleasingly diversified with hills and vallies, presents itself, while the villages seen on every side with their churches give a lively appearance to the whole landscape.

Near to the Alhambra is a magnificent

modern palace, commenced by Charles the Fifth, but still unfinished. It occupies a considerable extent of ground with no other buildings near it, except a few temporary erections for the accommodation of the workmen. Its figure is nearly a perfect square, each face having a superb entrance differently ornamented. On that which fronts the south-west are three large oval bronze plates, the one on the right representing the labours of Hercules, and the other two ancient battles. The windows are bordered with black marble, and the key-stones represent eagles' heads. Round the whole building, at equal distances, are heads of lions, with an immense bronze ring in the mouth of each. The Cour des Lions is an oblong square, one hundred feet by fifty. It is surrounded by a gallery supported on slender columns of white marble, coupled

two

two and two, and of very delicate workmanship. The walls of the gallery are covered with arabesque painting and gilding, in stucco, elegantly executed, which have received some injury. A handsome cupola, fifteen or sixteen feet each way, is placed at both ends of this court, and in the centre is a large bason, in the middle of which is a beautiful cupola of alabaster six feet high, supported by several lions of marble, and surmounted by a lesser cupola, from which issues a superb *jet d'eau*. Several other *jets d'eau* throw up columns of water to considerable heights. In short, the whole plan of this palace is magnificent, and well worthy the elevated ideas of the monarch by whom it was commenced. We have, however, to regret that it is not only left unfinished, but is also suffering daily injury from total neglect.

Above the Alhambra the French have

formed a strong and tolerably extensive field work, which commands the whole summit of the hill.

On our return from the Alhambra I found the prisoners taken with me had arrived; they spoke in the highest terms of the treatment they met with from the officers of their escort belonging to the 32d and 58th regiments, who always ceded to them the place of honour at table, and shewed them every other mark of polite attention. These regiments had been warmly engaged at the battle of Talavera, and with the greatest liberality of sentiment did ample justice to the gallant conduct of our troops on that memorable day. I had, indeed, many opportunities of observing, on our march, the superior liberality of the French officers and soldiers, to the Germans and Spaniards in the French service; both of the latter conducting themselves towards

wards their prisoners with the most unmanly brutality, while the former treated the soldiers with humanity, and the officers with politeness and attention. Doubtless, these mercenary Germans and rebel Spaniards hope to recommend themselves to their French masters, by the ferocity of their behaviour to their defenceless prisoners; no such effect, however, was produced, at least on the officers of our escort, who expressed a sovereign contempt both for the Germans and Spaniards, but more particularly for the former.

Our officers were at first granted their parole, but in a day or two they were again deprived of it, and confined in the Alhambra with the soldiers and seamen, by order of Marshal Soult; for my own part, I enjoyed perfect liberty to employ my time as I thought proper. The evenings I usually passed at the Duchess of Goa's *tertulias*, or routs, which were always well attended,

and

and the play tolerably deep. General Sebastiani, in particular, staked high, but apparently more from ostentation than any love of play. The most usual games were Pharo, at which the deal went round, Bouillotte and Monté. Madame d'Aguillac, whose husband holds a lucrative place under the French government in Spain, also saw company in the evenings, and I frequently made one of her party.

CHAPTER VII.

Grenada....Plain of Grenada....Colonial productions of Andalusia....Poles....Praises of Buonaparte....Spanish ball and pastimes....Pets....Convent of Chartreux....Carera theatre....*Bon mot*....Breakfast *à la Provençale.*

GRENADA is delightfully situated on two hills, at the extremity of a beautiful plain, called the Vega de Grenada. The rivers Darro and Xenil, which fertilize the plain, run through the town; they are both mountain streams, fordable almost every where in summer, but subject to sudden rises, which often carry away the bridges and do other damage. The plain is about thirty leagues in circumference, and is surrounded by mountains, whose summits, capped with snow throughout the year,

year, are seen at twenty leagues distance from land in the Mediterranean. To seamen these mountains are generally known by the name of the Grenadines. Besides the two rivers already mentioned, the plain has three others, named the Diler, the Vogro, and the Monachil: this abundance of water and the gentle declivity of the ground enables the inhabitants to carry irrigation to perfection, the result of which is a perpetual vegetation and verdure, and a most exuberant production of grapes, olives, mulberries, lemons, oranges, and the sugar-cane. The climate of Andalusia is peculiarly favourable to the cultivation of the latter, and is equally calculated for the production of other tropical vegetables. The sugar made from the canes of this province is of the best quality, and near Malaga and at other places are considerable sugar works. The quantity of colonial produce

produce which may be derived from Andalusia, is in itself a sufficient motive for our using every exertion to prevent its remaining under the power of France; for there can be no doubt that it would in a very short time become a most formidable rival to our West India colonies, if that power was to enjoy the quiet possession of it. Possessing an extensive coast both on the Ocean and Mediterranean, with many good harbours, or safe roads for shipping, the facility of export would reduce the price of its produce to foreign merchants, while by inland navigation it would be conveyed to the interior with equal advantage, and safe from the danger of being intercepted by our cruisers.

While at Grenada I occasionally breakfasted with Major Growtowski of the 9th Polonois, with whom I had formed an intimacy, as well as with some other officers

of

of the same corps, who were in general persons of rank and property in Poland, and whose polite manners had procured them a favourable reception at Grenada. The conversation between the Major and myself often turned on politics, and whenever I expressed my surprise that a warlike nation, with a population of fifteen millions, a large army of hardy troops, and a compact territory, capable by its nature of an easy defence, should submit to a foreign dominion, his answer always was, " that " of two evils the Poles chose the least; for " that if they were not allies of France, " they would probably become the slaves " of Russia; that they were under obliga- " tions to the former, for having in some " measure restored them their country; " and finally that every Pole, abhorring the " unjust partition of their kingdom, na- " turally felt the most implacable hatred

" for

" for the sharers in the spoils, and there-
" fore thought any alternative better than
" subjection to them." These sentiments I could, however, easily perceive, proceeded from the temporary impression made on the Major by constantly hearing extolled the grandeur of the French empire, and the munificence of its sovereign. Indeed, nothing could be more tiresome than the eternal praises of the Emperor, which formed the chief topic of conversation at Sebastiani's parties. With a solemnity of countenance and a measured tone, so conspicuous in French oratory, the General would every day at table treat us with a panegyric on the virtues and exploits of his master, of which the following was usually the burthen; " *Messieurs, l'Empereur est*
" *un homme sans défaut, c'est le seul*
" *homme au monde avec tant de pouvoir à*
" *qui personne ne peut faire la moindre re-*
" *proche.*"

" *proche.*" Or, " *Messieurs, l'Empereur* " *est le plus grand homme, le plus grand* " *héros qui a jamais paru;*" and then he would draw a comparison with Cesar or Alexander, both of whom, of course, were *imbéciles* to Napoleon. At length I got so disgusted with this nonsense, that finding no hero in Grecian or Roman history equal to Buonaparte, I sought to match him in more remote antiquity, and compared him to Nimrod, who was a mighty one on the earth, and a mighty hunter before the Lord. The ridicule which this comparison threw on the subject produced the effect I wished, in preventing a repetition of such fulsome panegyrics, both in the General's societies and in the other circles where his suite retailed his oratorical declamations respecting the French monarch.

Hitherto the whole of the prisoners were confined in the Alhambra, and the Germans

mans and other foreigners being much more numerous than the English, frequent quarrels arose, which usually terminating in battles, induced me to apply for their separation, which was granted without difficulty.

The return of the spitting of blood and an oppression in my chest, obliging me to seek for medical assistance, I applied to Major Growtowski for his surgeon, a Pole, who accordingly visited me, and endeavoured to make himself understood in a mixed jargon of French, Spanish, Hungarian, and Polish. I soon discovered that little dependence was to be placed upon his skill. I, however, allowed him to bleed me, but prescribed for myself some cooling medicines and a low diet, which in a few days produced a considerable amendment in my health and spirits. When sufficiently recovered, Madame Mil-

liones, my landlady, was obliging enough to give a grand ball on my account, a civility I could have gladly dispensed with; but as she would not listen to such a proposition, I was obliged to submit to suffer her kindness. There were several Polish officers at this ball, but not one Frenchman; and the former being all violin players, each took it in turn to act as fiddler, there being no regular musicians. Waltzes and English country dances chiefly prevailed; but the Spanish tunes are so different from ours, that it was scarcely possible to adapt any figure to them; besides, the ladies being at our gentlemen's side of the dance, made it exceedingly awkward to me, for my landlady would not even excuse me from dancing, and as the figures were called English, the company naturally looked to me for instruction.

When the dances were over, I was in hopes I should be allowed to remain quiet; but,

but, on the contrary, blindman's buff commenced, in which I was also obliged to join, to prevent myself being eternally importuned by the ladies. This diversion differs something from ours of the same name; the person blindfolded has a cane in his hand, with which he endeavours to touch one of the company who dance round him, and when he has succeeded, all stand still, and he guesses the name of the person touched; if right, this person takes his place. Another amusement of the evening was mewing like cats; and between the acts of blindman's buff, a solemn looking old gentleman several times pushed open the door from outside, made a short speech, with a variety of ridiculous grimaces, and ran out again, every time receiving the loudest applause from the company. This kind of childish nonsense, indeed, pervades all the domestic diversions of the Spaniards,

and has often made me heartily tired of their parties. The entertainment was given in my apartments, and when the company were about to retire, at three o'clock in the morning, and I was in hopes of getting some repose, a violent thunder storm commenced, and detained them an hour longer.

The following day (October 24) I was introduced by the *intendant Chevalier* to Madame Quesada and her amiable daughter; this lady's husband had been Governor of Minorca, when it was taken by Sir Charles Stewart. She asked me many questions respecting the island, and having been there some time, I was enabled to answer to her satisfaction. I often visited this interesting family afterwards, and the young lady obligingly undertook to improve me in the Spanish language. In my intercourse with Spanish families, I could not help remarking the listless indolence in which

which the females doze away their lives; never have I seen a book or a needle in their hands, and their sole occupation seems to be playing with pet animals, particularly cats and dogs. Besides a monkey, several parrots and some pigeons, my landlady had four little curs, whose barking and snarling made them complete nuisances; she had also a large and a small cat, for each of which a proportionate sized hole was cut in the bottom of every door, not recollecting, I suppose, that the small cat could pass through the large hole; however this might be, the current of air that these holes admitted counterbalanced the effects of the brasier, and made the apartments most uncomfortable.

During my stay at Grenada, I often rode about the environs with the General, who was always attended by a numerous suite and a strong guard, many straggling

Frenchmen having been lately murdered close to the town. On these occasions the whole cavalcade always passed through the villages at full gallop, in order to strike the inhabitants with astonishment and awe. In one excursion we visited a convent of Chartreux about a mile from Grenada, of which the monks, twenty-five in number, had been either massacred or expelled. This edifice is beautifully situated, commanding an extensive view, and contains several spacious reception rooms, in one of which were now collected several statues of Saints, some valuable pictures, chiefly of Spagnioletto and Murilla, and a quantity of church plate, the plunder of other religious buildings. These objects as well as the edifice are in charge of Monsieur d'Aguillar, who resides in elegant apartments in the building, and to whose handsome wife the General was said to be partial.

The

The *Sacristie* of this convent is particularly worthy of notice, from its light and elegant appearance, and the good taste it exhibits. The tables which surround it are of the most valuable marbles, and of exquisite workmanship, and the whole are said to be the performance of one man. While viewing the valuable articles of church furniture collected here, Sebastiani declaimed on the oppressive taxes the Spaniards must have borne, to furnish religious ornaments alone, and the advantages that must result from the abolition of monastic institutions. Here I could not help reflecting, that if plundering the churches was for the good of the country, the French had certainly taken a most lively interest in its welfare. This idea I however kept to myself, as well as most others that did not coincide with those of the General, whose *amour-propre* would have made it very dif-

ficult to convince him he was mistaken, and more particularly so as his *ipse dixit* was always received as an immutable truth by every one around him.

One of my daily promenades was to the Carera, where, when the weather is fine, an immense concourse of people assemble at three o'clock in the afternoon. This walk is formed by a long street, which had lately been widened and ornamented, and at its extremity is a wood, intersected by pleasant alleys. However the present contest may terminate, it must be admitted that the Spaniards will be indebted to the French for many works both of utility and ornament, which under their old lethargic government would probably have never been thought of. Among other public works commenced by the French at Grenada, are a bridge of a single arch over the Xenil, and a theatre, on which a vast number

number of workmen were now employed, in order to finish it before the General's birthday, on which, as I have before said, it is to be opened. The contrast between this edifice and the old theatre is striking, the latter being a heavy and gloomy building, without ornaments either external or internal, while the former is light and airy, with decorations approaching to the tawdry; one reminds us of the sober seriousness of the Spaniard, the other of the gay flippancy of the Frenchman. The orchestra in the French theatre is constructed on a new principle, apparently well calculated for the diffusion of sound. The boxes are gaudily painted, and on the fronts alternately is a gilt eagle and an *N.* which reminded me of the pun of a Frenchman, who, on visiting the Thuilleries, and observing this letter on every side, exclaimed, "*Ma foi, il a des N. mis partout!*" An English-

Englishman is satisfied with the government while he can grumble out his constitutional discontent without control or restraint; a Frenchman, on the contrary, consoles himself in every stage of oppression with a pun or *bon mot*; and in this respect his language is peculiarly happy, but whether from its perfection or imperfection I will not pretend to determine.

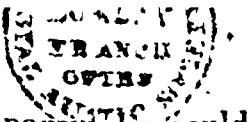
In the evening of October 25, I accompanied my landlady and her daughter to a *tertulia* at Madame Caracaos, where we found a number of old ladies crowded round a brasier in an apartment just sufficiently lighted to make darkness visible. On our arrival a play was commenced resembling our Hunt the Slipper, to which succeeded a dance, and in both of which I was obliged to join, having the young lady of the house for my partner in the dance. There was not a Frenchman present,

sent, nor have I met one of them at any Spanish house, except the Duchess of Goa's. The exercise of the evening brought on a return of my complaint, and obliged me to have recourse again to the Polish doctor's lancet, which, together with the application of a strong blister and quiet living for a day or two, once more gave me relief.

October 30, being able to quit the house, I visited the cathedral, a fine building, with a superb dome supported by twelve large columns, the ceiling well painted and ornamented with several gilt figures. Over the colonnade are two rows of balconies richly gilt, and behind the grand altar a chapel, with several monuments, particularly those of Ferdinand and Isabella, and of Philip the First and his queen. The *sacristie* is very rich, the altar being of valuable marble, and the tables of scarce and curious dark coloured woods, inlaid

inlaid with gold and ivory, which has a fine effect. Among the valuables collected in this apartment are the crowns of Ferdinand and Isabella, and a considerable quantity of rich church plate and ornaments, which however formed but a portion of what it formerly possessed, the French having considerably stripped it; and indeed it is probable that what remains has been only left not too far to outrage the feelings of the people, and that they will be carried off at some other opportunity.

The same morning I was invited to accompany General Sebastiani to breakfast with General Purmerent, who informed me that this repast should be entirely *à la Provençale*, and he kept his word so minutely that I never desire to partake of such another; every dish, whatever might be its other ingredients, contained such an abominable mixture of garlic and rancid oil,



oil, that those of the company who could command their stomachs so far as to get some of them down, were ill for several days after; indeed the General and his *aide-de-camp* seemed alone to relish the breakfast. This General had been Ambassador to the United States, where he picked up a few words of English; amongst which, "*G— d— your eyes, how do you* "*do?*" was the most expressive, and his usual salutation to me.

CHAPTER VIII.

Grenada.... Defeat of Blake's army.... French discipline and soldiers.... Advantages of occupying the coasts of the Mediterranean.... Method of separating corn from the ear....Spanish husbandry ....Spanish prisoners from Blake's army....Sebastiani's birthday.

NOVEMBER 1. Though the conversation at General Sebastiani's usually turned on the military operations of the day, and though aware that a Frenchman is a most restless animal, whether he has any cause or not for movement, I had for some days observed a more than usual bustle among the Staff, and a mysterious manner, that led me to suppose some serious movement of the army was intended; which was soon confirmed by the arrival of Colonel Grouvel,

vel, commanding the 16th légère, with a report from the advanced posts. The conversation between this officer and Sebastiani was, on the part of the latter, peremptory and warm, and some reply of the Colonel's called forth such a reprimand from the General as struck him speechless. This Colonel was indeed so compleat a caricature of a French soldier, that I could not resist the temptation of taking a sketch of him, which I have given as a frontispiece.

This cavalier treatment of an officer of rank by the General, leads me to offer a few observations on the discipline of the French army, which is certainly preserved in a surprising manner, amongst the variety of temptations and provocations to insubordination. Although ill cloathed, badly paid, and often scantily fed, the soldier performs his duty with alacrity and chearfulness,

fulness, and is seldom missing when called upon: but, on the contrary, is generally at the appointed rendezvous before the specified time, which saves the non-commissioned officers a world of trouble. The external appearance of the soldiers being deemed of little moment, they have no dress parades, but their arms they keep in good order for their own preservation, and are careful of their ammunition for the same reason.

The conscripts are perfectly drilled at a dépôt before they are sent to join their regiments, and this instruction seems to be so impressed upon them that they never forget it. In their regimental manœuvres there is often an appearance of disorder and confusion which surprises an English officer, but from which, however, the intention is finally accomplished; such, for instance, is the case in wheeling a column, when the pivots

pivots are always moveable; when broken they act on no fixed principle, and it would seem impossible that they could be again formed by the manœuvres they adopt: I have however seen this accomplished with great rapidity, even under a heavy fire. Indeed, instead of mere automatons put in motion by a power of whose principles they are ignorant, every French soldier reasons on the movements of the army he belongs to, and says what *he* would have done in such a case. I have been often surprised at the shrewd observations and theoretical knowledge of some of the private men, which often seemed to place them above their officers. But though the want of fixed principles of action may not perhaps be of much consequence in an army of veteran soldiers, amongst raw ones it must often be fatal, and probably this will shortly be proved in Spain, where the ve-

terans who composed the first invading armies are mostly "killed off," and two-thirds of the present are conscripts, and mostly boys, and all of them without practical experience, which might make up for the want of theory. It is said that Buonaparte expresses his preference of young soldiers; however, in this respect, I doubt if he does not resemble the spendthrift, whose extravagance obliging him to cut down an ancient wood, told his friend he did so because he preferred young trees.

The confidence in their own judgment which forms a part of the general French character, is perhaps one of the causes which prevents Frenchmen from making good seamen, for a ship must be very badly manœuvred, where every one of her crew pretends to have an opinion of his own. Conversing with some merchants at Bayonne concerned in privateers, they assured me

me that one-third of this description of vessels were either upset at sea, or run on shore, from the self-sufficient confidence of the men. To conclude my observations on French soldiers; I must do them the justice to say that I have never found them mercenary, but, on the contrary, that I have often received civilities from them without their asking or appearing to expect any pecuniary reward: I must also observe that their share of plunder is usually very trifling, the superior officers taking care not to forget themselves in the division.

I at length learnt (November 3) that the unusual bustle I had observed at the General's was in consequence of a movement made by Blake, who was at this time at Baza near Lorca, with twelve thousand men; that the French troops were all in motion, and that Sebastiani was to set out the next morning to take the command.

On consulting the map I found that the French army was so distributed, that in twenty-four hours a considerable force could be assembled in any point menaced with attack. At dinner the General informed me of all the circumstances of Blake's movement, and on rising from table he received a dispatch from Marshal Soult, detailing the proceedings before Cadiz, the meeting of the Cortes, the nature of their deliberations, and the dismission of the Duc d'Orleans from the isle of Leon by their order. From the manner in which Sebastiani spoke of the proceedings of this assembly, it was evident that its proceedings was by no means agreeable to the French interests.

In the course of the evening I entered into conversation with Monsieur Cussini, chief of the engineer department, who expressed much surprise at our not having possessed ourselves of the coast of the Mediter-

Mediterranean, to enable us to land small detachments at different points, by which the French must be much harassed, as in the state of the country it was impossible for them to be guarded every where. These observations in fact were perfectly just, for with a Levant wind a squadron could run down from Cape de Gata to Malaga in a few hours, the distance being but about thirty-five leagues; the troops embarked on board might be landed at Motril or Almunecar, at which latter place there was but a very trifling force, and no artillery; nor could the French immediately assemble any considerable force in that neighbourhood, while any troops Sebastiani might be able to spare would have to march upwards of one hundred miles through a mountainous country, scarcely practicable for heavy artillery, and subject continually to the attacks of the numerous bands of Guerillas

who occupied these mountains. Thus a respectable force being once established on any part of the coast near Malaga, would be able to maintain itself against any detachments that could at this time have been sent against it. Had I been fortunate enough to have been joined by the 82d regiment, it was my intention to have acted on this plan.

November 4, according to arrangement, General Sebastiani set off for Bazá early in the morning of the fourth, leaving his *aide-de-camp* Lavoisteen to keep me company, and with orders to his servants to furnish our table as usual; this day, however, I was engaged to dine with General Dufour, Governor of the city, who though he has not the character of being a great General, is a most respectable old gentleman of the ancient *régime*. After dinner information was received of the total defeat of Blake's army,

of

of which I shall have occasion to speak more fully hereafter.

The next morning (November 5) I breakfasted with Lavoisteen, when it was agreed that we should dine *téte à téte* during the General's absence. In the evening I visited the Alhambra, and directed each of our soldiers confined there to be furnished with a shirt and pair of shoes; for though, on my previous demand, I had been assured that they should be immediately supplied with the cloathing they might require by the French government, I now found that no steps had been taken for that purpose. From the Alhambra I rode to a village three miles from Grenada, situated in a fertile plain, where I observed their manner of separating the corn from the ear. The corn is placed on a paved circular spot, round which two mares are driven, as we ring horses, and who tread out the corn. I

have observed that in Spain, in Egypt, South America, and the Cape of Good Hope, mares are kept for this purpose and for breeding alone, never being used for the saddle or draft, while in France mares are seen employed for these uses, the horses being all bought up for the armies.

The valley which called forth these observations is well irrigated, and indeed this seems to be the only part of husbandry in which the Spaniards take any pains. Their farming utensils in particular are most wretched, the harrow being furnished with wooden pins only, and is often drawn by an ass and a goat, while it is very common to see a plough worked by two mules or bullocks only, with tackling of cow hide and rope mixed, and no pains being taken to make the animals step together, they fatigue themselves and do scarce any work. In France, where agriculture is carried to much

much higher perfection, I have often seen a mixture of animals yoked to the plough, such as two half-starved horses at the wheels, two bullocks in the middle, and two asses as leaders; or else the bullocks at the wheels and the horses in the centre: for I never remember to have seen the bullocks as leaders, though, from being the slowest animals of the three, this arrangement would certainly be the best, as it is the leaders that regulate the pace.

On returning from my ride I found Growtowski, whose regiment had marched but a short distance when it received orders to return. He shook me very cordially by the hand, and, forgetting himself I suppose, congratulated me on the recent victory, as if I had been a Frenchman. According to agreement Lavoisteen and I dined *tête à tête, à l'Angloise,* over a good fire, to which, as well as to our customs in general

general and our countrymen, he pretended to be very partial. This gentleman's knowledge, as is the case with most Frenchmen, is very multifarious, but superficial, and his quotations from Voltaire and other philosophic writers were so rapid, and often so unconnected, that there was no answering his arguments; but although I do not pretend to a profound knowledge of history, I found that even in quoting from Voltaire's historical works I had the advantage in correctness, which my talkative companion was obliged to acknowledge.

On the 6th I received a trunk of cloaths from Gibraltar, and at the same time learnt that the moment my servants heard of my being made prisoner, they plundered every thing they could get at. I felt the more sensibly this ingratitude, as I had treated them with more than common kindness, and even studied to make them comfortable.

On

On the following day (November 7) a Polish officer arrived who had been wounded in the late action, and from whose account it would have appeared that the victory was entirely owing to his individual prowess; he also informed us that Sebastiani had gone on to Baza, and would not return to Grenada for five or six days. The arrival of several other officers gave me an opportunity of enquiring by what mismanagement the army of Blake had been defeated by a force so very inferior; for it appeared that of the French army the 5th dragoons, one regiment of Polish Lanciers, and an inconsiderable detachment of infantry, had alone been engaged. I learnt that the Spanish army was composed principally of recruits totally ignorant of the use of their arms, and it was crowded into a plain without any protection in front, nor did they even take possession of some broken ground, or form

form *trous de loup* as a defence against cavalry; so that on the first charge the army was broken, and the men throwing down their arms cried for quarter. About eighteen hundred were said to be killed, and upwards of eleven hundred, including forty-seven officers, made prisoners. I had seen General Blake at Gibraltar, when on his way from Cadiz to Carthagena to take the command of this army; he had the appearance of a good honest farmer, but nothing in his countenance or manners that denoted superior talents. His staff was wretchedly made up, and, it was said, set the example of seeking safety in flight.

The Spanish prisoners arrived on the 8th, and were marched through the Plaza de Triompha, which was crowded with the inhabitants. The officers seemed to have been all wounded by the sabre: one-third of the privates were half naked, and half starved

starved boys from fourteen to sixteen; another third infirm old men, just able to crawl, for those who could not get on were charitably shot on the road by their escort; the last third were composed of men of a tolerable appearance, and could alone have opposed any efficient resistance to the French.

The next morning (November 9) I accompanied Lavoisteen to meet the General: we had a pleasant ride of three leagues, through a most romantic country, the appearance of which seemed to denote its having undergone some great natural convulsion. At a short distance on our right rose the Sierras de Grenada, a mountainous ridge of considerable elevation, at the foot of which stretches an extensive plain, reckoned one of the most fertile tracts of the kingdom. This ridge is inhabited by a brave and warlike people, so well protected

by

by the natural strength of the country, that while they continue to defend their fortresses it must be impossible to subdue them; nor indeed have the French yet been able to retain the positions they have occasionally occupied among them.

About three leagues from Grenada we met General Sebastiani, escorted by the Lanciers Polonois and a detachment of cavalry: the 12th dragoons also joined near Grenada, to render his entrance more imposing. The Plaza de Triompha was, as usual, crowded with spectators to view the triumph of their invaders. Having, however, seen the miserable wretches the French had to contend with, I could give them but little credit for their victory; nevertheless, according to their usual gasconade, every individual had encountered a host and destroyed legions. In the evening I went to a concert at Mr. Galway's,

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an Irish merchant, married to an agreeable Spanish lady; in their sitting room was a chimney, the comforts of which were so well appreciated by the lady, that she assured me she seldom quitted the fireside.

The 10th was employed by the General in making arrangements for the security of the prisoners, but the succeeding morning he proposed a ride to the village of Robach, two leagues from Grenada; the country between is richly cultivated, and the village a very good one. We alighted at the house of a respectable priest, who possessed a tolerable library and a collection of pictures. While walking with him through his garden, which was in neat order, he told me that he had belonged to the household of Charles the Third, and indeed I soon found that he united the polish of the court to the knowledge of the scholar. Feeling that he had no occasion

for

for reserve with me, he described what his flock had suffered from the invaders, with the tenderness of a parent, whilst unaffected benevolence was marked in his countenance. When his eyes filled with tears, as he drew the picture of the horrors he had witnessed, I could not help exclaiming:

> .....Merciful Heaven!
> Thou rather with thy sharp and sulphurous Bolt
> Splits the unwedgeable and gnarled Oak,
> Than the soft Myrtle:—O, but Man! proud Man,
> Drest in a little brief Authority,
> Plays such fantastic Tricks before high Heaven
> As makes the Angels weep!—

On our return from the garden the good priest led us into a small chapel, adorned with some pictures and images, and taking down one of the latter of gold, offered it to the General, who declined accepting it. Several Alcaides and priests waited on him here, and were received with the greatest politeness,

politeness, while in their own language, which he speaks with purity, he recommended to them a strict attention to the morality of the rising generation, and to encourage industry and orderly habits among the peasantry of their respective villages. His audience bowed with reverence, and put on the outward signs of a satisfaction it is almost impossible they could really feel. In our return to Grenada we made a circuit of some miles, and passed through several charming villages. On approaching the city I had a good view of the field works constructing above the Alhambra; they were four in number, pallisaded round, mount thirty-six pieces of heavy ordnance, and serve as a cavalier to the Alhambra.

On our arrival in the town the General abruptly informed me that the prisoners were to be sent off the next day, and that I must prepare to accompany them: I, however,

however, procured a day's delay for myself, in order to provide the necessary conveyance for my baggage; and this being the General's birthday (November 12), I had an opportunity of being present at the *fête* given on the occasion. In the morning, before breakfast, he received the compliments of the staff, of the garrison, and the officers of corps, presented by their respective commandants; to these succeeded the civil staff of the army and the civil authorities of the city. This ceremony concluded, breakfast was served, during which an officer entered with a verbal report of some deserters being retaken: "*qu'on les* "*pend tout de suite!*" replied the General, without altering a feature, or saying another word on the subject, and the officer bowed and retired. Such are the steps deemed requisite under these circumstances.

After

After breakfast Sebastiani proceeded to church, attended by all the authorities, in the greatest pomp, and as the procession was crossing the Plaza de Triompha, the eleven hundred prisoners of Blake's army appeared under a large escort. Whether this rencontre was accidental or premeditated, I cannot say, but should rather suppose the latter, and that the General meant by it to remind the gaping multitude that he united the hero and the christian. I could not help reflecting, that probably at this very moment another multitude was assembled in a different part of the town, to witness the execution of the unhappy wretches whom the unjustifiable invasion of Spain by France deemed a necessary sacrifice.

A ball, fireworks, and illuminations closed the day's rejoicing; but the former was rather meagre, there being few attractive

females. Waltzes and what were called English country dances chiefly prevailed, one set only performing French country dances, in which the men far excelled the women. There was also deep play at Trente et Quarante and Pharo. An elegant supper was served after the ball, and the whole evening's entertainment was in a stile of magnificence and cheerfulness that precluded *ennui.*

CHAPTER IX.

From Grenada to Jaen....Mode of travelling.... Appearance of the country....French dragoon.... Alcala Reale....Escape of Spanish prisoners.... Road.....Convoy reinforced.....Alcaudete.... Countess of Superonda.....German braggadocio ....Martos....Jaen....French military execution.

NOVEMBER 13. Having purchased two mules and made all the necessary preparations for departure, in the morning I took leave of the General, who politely begged my acceptance of a horse, completely caparisoned; he also gave me several open letters of recommendation, both general and particular, desiring that I might be paid every attention to. The officers of his staff also individually took leave of me as if I had been their dearest friend, and fur-

nished me with letters for their relations in France. The attention both of the General and his staff will never be effaced from my memory.

I hired a French servant to conduct the mules, on one of which I placed two trunks, made purposely for this mode of conveyance, containing my clothes, and on the other two similar ones, filled with provisions for a week, such as hams, for which Grenada is famous, pies, and other good things, together with a small barrel of wine; in short, having neglected nothing to make me independent of inns on the road, I quitted Grenada, escorted by a detachment of twelve dragoons, and accompanied by Colonel Marshall and Monsieur de Billi, who were directed by the General to provide me with suitable quarters, while we remained together, and in every other respect to attend to my comfort.

fort. In spite, however, of all these attentions, the prospect of a three months journey at this inclement season was by no means exhilarating.

The country we passed through for some miles is flat, and cultivated as well as the Spanish system of agriculture admits. At a small village, called Pixor, where we bated the cattle, the country assumes a quite different appearance, being generally hilly and rocky, with considerable woods, which formerly reached quite to the road; but the trees for about four hundred yards in depth on each side had been recently cut down, to deprive the brigands of the cover they afforded, to conceal themselves and shoot at the straggling parties of French. The abrupt inequalities of this tract of country would lead one to suppose it had undergone the effects of an earth-

quake. The summits of several of the hills are crowned by small Moorish towers, which seem to have served for making signals.

Having separated a little distance from the body of the escort, I entered into conversation with a dragoon, whose manners and address bespoke his superior education. I found that his parents had been respectable people, but that his having been drawn for the conscription had so affected his mother, as to deprive her of her intellects, and that his father had in consequence disposed of his property, and removed from his former residence to he knew not whither. This simple tale he delivered with a feeling and modesty that could not fail of making a strong impression, and certainly it did so on me.

A heavy storm of rain and wind coming on before we could reach Alcala Reale, we entered

entered that town wet and uncomfortable, and I had no change of clothes, having been obliged to leave the mules in the rear, to come on with a return escort. Colonel Marshall, who commanded at Alcala Reale, had, like most of the French superior officers, formed a temporary connexion with a Spanish lady, from whom I met great civility, and spent the evening pleasantly with the Colonel over a pipe and some hot brandy and water; for the wine was execrable. Here I met a Portuguese officer in the French service, who spoke good English; he appeared to be much interested in the fate of his country, and lamented that circumstances obliged him to remain in the service of her enemy.

Alcala Reale is a considerable town of about eight to nine thousand inhabitants; it is in Andalusia, nearly on the borders of Grenada,

Grenada, and is situated on an elevated plain. It is commanded by a strong Moorish castle, and has been considerably improved by the French, particularly by the formation of public walks.

November 14. While at breakfast with Colonel Marshall, the officer charged with escorting the prisoners arrived, and reported that some Spanish officers had escaped, at the same time proposing that the person at whose house they were billetted should be arrested and punished; but the Colonel very properly demanded if a centinel had been placed over them? and being answered in the affirmative, replied, that the officer of the guard or the centinel was to blame, and not the Spaniard; a very unusual instance of considerate justice in a French officer in Spain, for in general the unfortunate Spaniards are punished for the neg-

negligence of the French officers and soldiers charged with the prisoners.

The main body of the escort having quitted Alcala Reale early in the morning, after breakfast I took advantage of a detachment of cavalry to rejoin it. The road skirted a ravine, which forms some strong passes, formerly crossed by bridges, but all now broken down, to obstruct the passage of the French; the road was also broken up in several places, and certainly had the Spaniards defended these passes with common resolution, the enemy could never have penetrated into the country with heavy artillery. The fact, however, is, that at the commencement the Spaniards were lukewarm in their own cause, and would probably have still remained so, had not the cruelties and excesses of the French roused them to resistance and revenge.

Our escort, which originally consisted of nineteen

nineteen hundred infantry and one hundred cavalry, to guard eleven hundred Spaniards and about one hundred and forty English and Germans, was continually increased by numbers of travellers, who availed themselves of the safety it offered them. The curious vehicles of these travellers, the mixture of animals by which they were drawn, and the dresses of the passengers, formed an amusing sight. With respect to the latter, few of them paid much attention to externals, a dirty red night cap usually covering their heads, which, had I not known that they have no such word, and are even ignorant of its meaning, I might have thought they intended for comfort.

After four hours march we reached Alcaudete, an insignificant town, on irregular ground, with narrow and badly paved streets. Here we slept, and resuming our journey next morning (November 15), passed

passed over a tract covered with beautiful turf, interspersed with clumps of evergreen oaks, and in every respect resembling a highly drest English park. The escort usually halted between the stages on the brink of some rivulet to take refreshment, and this as much from necessity as choice, for we seldom met an isolated house in a day's march. The Countess of Superonda and her daughter, who were among the travellers that joined the escort, when we halted, politely invited me to partake of their repast. This lady travelled in a large coach, drawn by seven mules, and filled with feather beds, live poultry, and drest provisions; she was accompanied by an intelligent priest, and attended by several domestics, mounted on asses. She informed me that the greater part of a considerable property which she possessed near Malaga, had been confiscated by the French,

and

and that she was now going to Madrid to endeavour to arrange for the reception of the part which, at the commencement of the troubles, she had taken the precaution to make over to a friend in that city.

Before we reached Martos we were met by a Monsieur Saul, a German, who, though but a Lieutenant, commanded in the town. He immediately introduced himself to me, and did not leave me long in doubt as to his character's being that of a ferocious braggadocio, which I suppose was his chief recommendation to a command in this unhappy country. Among other stories equally marvellous, he had singly attacked forty armed Spaniards, of whom he killed thirteen and made the rest prisoners; which reminded me of the story of the Irish soldier, who on bringing several prisoners before his commander, and being asked how he singly could have managed to take so many, answered,

ed, " by my soul, I surrounded them, to be " sure!" As we approached Martos this ruffian pointed out to me two poor wretches hanging at a tree, who had recently been executed by his order, observing with an infernal smile, " that was the way to sub- " due Spain!" to which I could not help replying, " that it would require a vast deal " of rope and a great many hangmen to " execute eleven millions of people, and " that if one only remained, revenge would " be his motto." Clenching his fist, knitting his diabolical brows, and curling his bushy mustachios, he swore a terrible oath, that, " if it depended on him he would not leave " one Spaniard in existence!" Determined to glut me with sights of horror, on arriving at the Plaza in the town, he desired me to remark a marble seat covered with the blood and brains of victims recently butchered; then suddenly changing the subject invited

me

me to dine with him, an honour which I declined with little appearance of politeness, so much was I shocked with the blood-thirsty character of this monster.

At Martos I was billetted at the house of an old officer of the Walloon guards, who had served forty-six years, and whose prepossessing appearance singularly contrasted with that of the ferocious Saul. This respectable old gentleman led me over his house, which had been the family mansion for centuries, and shewed me an apartment in which he exultingly informed me that Charles the Third had once deigned to pass the night, and which he requested me to occupy as the greatest honour he could then do an English officer of distinction. In this apartment was a splendid altar with several figures of saints, and the good old lady of the mansion who accompanied us, informed me that I could there perform my devotions

devotions without fear of interruption, never dreaming that I was a heretic, nor was there any necessity for my enlightening her on the subject.

These good people prepared me a comfortable dinner with six covers, to which I invited our officers and Monsieur de Billi. During a part of our repast our hosts sat and conversed with us, and though they seemed to be really rejoiced at being able to treat us with hospitality, they could not help expressing their surprise at the quantity of wine we drank; and as we several times declined coffee, they concluded Englishmen had a general aversion to it, which was also a matter of astonishment.

November 16. Quitting Martos at an early hour, our road lay over a rich, well cultivated, and seemingly more populous country than I had yet observed, for we passed through two large villages before we

arrived at Jaen, on entering which I was accosted by the Major de Place, a genteel young man who was raising a Spanish regiment for the French service, and who accompanied me to Colonel Schoumalu, the Commandant, residing in the bishop's palace. From this gentleman I met an extremely civil reception, and accepted his invitation to dinner.

Jaen is a middling sized town with a population of between eight and ten thousand inhabitants. It is situated on very uneven ground, with narrow, crooked and steep streets, and is surrounded by an old Moorish wall and commanded by a castle. The cathedral which I visited before dinner, accompanied by the Commandant and Dean, stands in the Plaza and opposite the bishop's palace. It is a superb edifice: the correct Corinthian order is preserved throughout, with the exception of the columns in the inside, which

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are rather heavy in proportion to the rest of the building. It had formerly four hundred canons or dignitaries, but is now much reduced. Among the pictures particularly worthy of notice were a Virgin by Mesci, a St. Jerome by Spagnoletto, and the Martyrdom of St. Chrysostom. The *Sacristie* is well proportioned and elegant, and the grand altar magnificent, being supported by columns of a marble found in the neighbourhood, resembling lapis lazuli. In many houses on the road I had observed a head of Christ, engraved in a singular manner, and I now found that they were copies from a painting in this cathedral, which on my requesting to see, the Dean politely prepared to gratify my curiosity. Having retired for some minutes he returned drest in his canonicals, accompanied by twelve priests bearing lighted wax tapers in large golden candlesticks: after a mass had been said,

two small folding doors were thrown open with great devotion, and by the light of some candles I observed in a niche a dark representation of the head and neck of our Saviour, so inimitably executed that I was struck with an awful sensation not to be described. The eyes appeared to penetrate the inmost recesses of the soul, and the whole had so much the appearance of life, that if any thing could excuse the superstitious worship of the material representation of the divinity, it would certainly be this picture. The crown of the head is covered with a veil, and the picture is placed in a frame of solid gold, set with diamonds and emeralds of immense value. The miraculous history of this *santa farsa* is, that an old woman is said to have placed a handkerchief thrice folded on the face of our Saviour, on his descent from the cross, and when taken off each fold was found to have

received an exact impression of the countenance; one is preserved at Madrid, a second at Toledo, and the third is that at Jaen.

According to invitation I proceeded to dine with the Commandant, where a party of about thirty was assembled, and amongst them the Dean, with whom I had much pleasing and instructive conversation in Spanish, which he spoke with such elegance that I much regretted not being able to spend some days in his society to improve myself in that language. The Commandant I also found to be a most respectable character, with a degree of sincerity and frankness in his manners and conversation seldom met with in modern Frenchmen.

While at dinner I learnt that Major Ropach had been sent with a detachment to destroy a village about twelve miles distant, where some French soldiers had been mur-

dered the preceding night; for it is a general order, that the inhabitants of the place where such a crime is committed, are to be put to the sword, without exception of age or sex, and their habitations burned to the ground; nor is any enquiry ever made into the provocation that may have occasioned these excesses. By this system of terror and extermination the French have created the bands, which they name brigands; for the inhabitants of a village who are fortunate enough to escape from these military executions, having no place of refuge, join the first armed party they meet, and urged by revenge and desperation, commit the greatest cruelties on the enemies that fall into their hands: in short, such is the horrid manner of conducting the war in Spain, that the French have every individual Spaniard against them in his heart; and as to the ultimate result of the

the contest I can only observe, that the subjection of a civilized and powerful nation, united in the common defence of its liberty, religion and property, by a foreign army, would be an event hitherto unprecedented in history.

After dinner the Commandant politely saw me to my lodgings, where I received an invitation from my host and his wife to accompany them to a *tertulia*, which however I declined. I observed that the inhabitants were obliged by order to keep a candle burning in every window throughout the night, by which the streets are lighted in a cheap and easy manner.

CHAPTER X.

Jaen to Andujar.... Guadalquivir.... Dinner with General Blondeau..... Sporting excursion..... Cookery.... Convoy from Seville.... Disagreeable Spanish custom.

NOVEMBER 16, quitting Jaen early, we passed over a flat country to Andujar, where I found excellent quarters had been secured for me at the house of the Marquis de Contadura, in consequence of a notification from General Sebastiani to General Blondeau. The latter invited me to dinner the day of our arrival; but I preferred a quiet one at my lodgings, to which I invited our officers; the greatest part of the dinner I drest myself, rather than be poisoned by Spanish cookery. The next morning

ing (November 17) I learnt that we were to remain at Andujar for four or five days, to be joined by a convoy expected from Seville and Cadiz, and also proceeding to Madrid.

Andujar is one of the principal towns of Andalusia, containing about fourteen thousand inhabitants. The streets are wide, and kept tolerably clean, and many of the houses have an appearance that denotes the easy circumstances of their proprietors. The Guadalquivir, after serpentizing through an agreeable valley, passes by the walls of the town, where it is crossed by a stone bridge of several arches. By this river, which is navigable for vessels of burthen from St. Lucar at its mouth in the bay of Cadiz to Seville, the French convey the artillery made in this last city, to supply their batteries against Cadiz. In the foundery at Seville, the French have cast mortars of such a size as will throw the shells

shells much beyond the usual distance. A great quantity of grain and provisions are also conveyed down the Guadalquivir. The plain in which Andujar is situated produces wine, oil, and honey in abundance; and in the vicinity of the town is a very white argillaceous clay, of which earthenware of a good quality is manufactured to a considerable extent, and the town has besides extensive silk manufactures.

Here the English and Spanish prisoners were confined in the same convent, but in separate parts; the Spanish officers and men were indiscriminately crowded into the chapel, for since the desertion of the officers at Alcala Reale no distinction had been made. After breakfast (November 18) I paid my respects to General Blondeau, who received me in the most polite manner, doubtless chiefly owing to the flattering letters of recommendation from General Sebas-

Sebastiani, and gave me a general invitation to his table while we remained at Andujar. This day the dinner party consisted of above eighteen persons, besides the General's staff; amongst the strangers were the Marquis de Contadura, and the Polish Major commanding the convoy, with whom I had some words on the road respecting the treatment of the prisoners; but we afterwards became good friends, on his changing the measures I complained of.—General Blondeau has all the appearance of a plain honest farmer, both in his dress and address, so that I felt perfectly at home in his company, and on his asking me to give my opinion of the dinner, I candidly recommended a less proportion of garlic and grease, and that the dishes should be sent warm to table. These observations produced an invitation to dinner the next day, and the cook was sent for

and

and ordered to take my directions. The General at the same time informed me, the neighbouring country abounded with hares, and that the next morning he would mount me on his cream coloured charger, take out his fifteen greyhounds, and we should have a fine morning's coursing, while he would also send out a *chasseur* with his gun, to procure a variety of game.

After dinner, when the rest of the party had withdrawn, he politely invited me to partake of a bowl of punch and smoke a pipe over a good fire in his cabinet, and we accordingly retired to this recess of sociability, when he at full entertained me with the history of his campaigns, and, like his countrymen,

> Fought all his battles o'er again.....
> And thrice he slew the slain.

As this subject was most uninteresting to me, I soon changed it to a disquisition on the

the female sex, and particularly French and Spanish women, to the latter of whom the General adjudged the palm of beauty; an opinion in which not finding me inclined to coincide, he determined to support it by ocular demonstration, and ringing the bell, it was answered by a beautiful Spanish girl of about eighteen, whose elegant shape, perfect head and bosom, shaded by the most beautiful hair falling in graceful ringlets over her shoulders, might have entitled her to sit for the picture of Venus. This interesting young creature, the General told me, had thrown herself on his protection to escape the brutality of the brigands, and that she officiated as his housekeeper. Without ceremony she drew a chair, seated herself beside me, and filled my glass with excellent punch, which she told me was of her own making. The General absenting himself for some time, the fair

Spaniard

Spaniard related her interesting story in elegant Spanish, and with a simplicity and modesty that gave it additional interest.

Having emptied our bowl of punch, the General insisted on seeing me to my lodgings, where I prevailed on him to partake of a glass of grog, and a segar, which kept us up till four o'clock, when it became my turn to see him home.

Next morning (November 19) being mounted on the General's cream coloured horse, which, though shewy, I soon found had neither speed nor bottom, we proceeded in search of the promised sport, attended *en prince* by about one hundred dragoons. Our pack was composed of several greyhounds, who all ran by the nose, which the French consider a perfection, and were much surprised, when I told them that in England this quality would cause them to be hanged for lurchers. Our party was numerous,

numerous, and consisted entirely of French officers, except the Marquis de Contadura, a Spanish nobleman, who had deserted his country's cause and joined its invaders, while the other members of his family, and even his wife, remained steady in their loyalty; indeed this lady informed me, that his former friends had ceased all correspondence with him, although he was one of the most distinguished Hidalgos of Spain. Our sport consisted in a few tolerable gallops, which completely knocked up my charger, and the produce of our three hours course was eighteen hares, the dragoons forming a line and beating across the fields, to put up the animals.

As I had promised to instruct the General's cook in making hare soup, on our return I repaired to the kitchen, where I found four brace of partridges, brought in by the *chasseur*, as well as some wild ducks,

ducks, and knowing that the French roast game to a cinder, I with much difficulty persuaded the cook to dress the ducks simply *à la broche*, and to serve them up with the sauce I should compose, taking care to specify particularly, that they were not to be put to the fire until the first course was served up. Although the cook and his assistants were diverted with the *bizarrerie* of the *cuisine Anglois*, I had the satisfaction to find at dinner that my hare soup was universally relished, and the ducks declared to be delicious. After dinner I retired with the General to his cabinet, where we played a party at piquet, while his charming housekeeper kept our glasses replenished with excellent punch, and promised to bring her sister to be of our party the following evening. Thirty-six Spanish prisoners made their escape this night.

In the morning (November 20) I strolled about

about the immediate environs of the town, and even for this short distance I was obliged to have an escort, so great was the dread of the brigands. At dinner at the General's I met a party of ten, one of whom was a clergyman, who spoke his political opinions with a freedom that surprised me, in a French military society, where such kind of discussions are considered as little less than treason; a point in which the French differ entirely from us, who are taught to believe, that truth is most certainly to be attained through the medium of argument.

On retiring to the General's cabinet, we found the fair housekeeper had not forgot her promise of introducing her sister, whose charms were equal to her own, and whose conversation made the evening pass with additional pleasure.

Next day (November 21), a convoy being

pected to arrive from Seville, I went out to meet it, accompanied by Monsieur de Billi, and by some of our officers. Before we fell in with the convoy we met with three Irishmen, without any escort, who pretended they were prisoners taken at Cadiz, but who in reality were deserters from the 87th regiment. There were also with them some English sailors, and among them a young lad named Archibald Lindsey, belonging to the *Thames* frigate, who told me that he had been constantly kept in irons, and treated with the greatest cruelty, to oblige him to enter into the French service.

We at last met the convoy, which was not very considerable, the number of prisoners in it being only fifty, among whom were a few English soldiers and sailors. I dined as usual with the General, but this day most uncomfortably, from a custom prevalent

prevalent among the people of condition in Spain, than which nothing can be more contrary to an Englishman's habits and ideas, that of making complimentary visits during dinner. Just as we had sat down to table the Countess of Superonda and her daughter paid one of those *mal à propos* visits to a Madame Benedicio, who had arrived with the convoy from Seville, and dined with the General. "*Place aux* "*dames*" was of course a necessary civility, and I was obliged to retire my chair a yard from the table, which made my situation most disagreeable; and, what was still worse, while the ladies were thus annoying me, as much as if they had studied a week before how to do so, they cried out every moment, "*Monsieur, ne dérangez-* "*vous pas, je vous en prie.*" Unfortunately, neither these polite requests, nor their frivolous chit-chat, consoled me for

the almost entire loss of my dinner; and I could not help reflecting, that what one people regards as the height of politeness, another considers as the very extreme of rudeness.

After returning to the *salon* for a short time, and joining in the public conversation, I took leave of the good General, whose kind attention I cannot easily forget; and on this occasion I must observe, that I have always found the well educated French extremely attentive to, and apparently interested in an Englishman, as if there was something extraordinary in him that called forth their admiration. While we remained in the *salon*, M. Huet and M. Cavällos, the former Paymaster of the 9th corps, and the latter Paymaster-General of the army of Portugal, attached themselves to me, and laughed heartily at my description of the annoyance I suffered at dinner,

dinner, from the intrusion of Madame Superonda, who I observed was not badly named; for the enormous rotundity of her person frightened me from entering the lists with her against such dreadful odds, and I thought it therefore most prudent to draw back my chair, even at the expence of my dinner. These observations called forth a number of sarcastic remarks from the Frenchmen on the Countess's *embonpoint;* and the levity of manner of her handsome daughter gave occasion to others not less cutting, but of a different nature. I could not decline the invitation of my facetious companions to sup with them, and we did not part till four o'clock in the morning.

CHAPTER XI.

From Andujar to St. Helena . . . . Unfeeling levity of a Pole . . . . . Baylen . . . . . Surrender of Dupont's army . . . . . Effect of the Cortes . . . . . Colonial town of Sierra Morena . . . . . Defile of Penon de los Peros . . . . . Causes of the French army forcing it.

At six o'clock in the morning of November 22d, we began our march from Andujar, with an escort of one thousand infantry and two hundred cavalry; this force being thought necessary to protect six million of reals in specie going to Madrid. In passing the place where the prisoners had been confined, I observed a poor wretch with his brains knocked out, and covered with stabs; and on enquiring of the Polish Major who commanded the escort

cort *en second*, I learnt that it was a Spaniard who had attempted to escape; and, continued the Major with a sardonic grin, " *le sentinelle l'a joliment tué!*" Though shocked by the unfeeling levity of the expression, I made no reply.

The country, which near Andujar is level and rich, soon became poor and rocky, and continued so to Baylen; an insignificant town four leagues from Andujar, where we arrived at an early hour, and found wretched accommodation; it having suffered greatly from the French, who at this time occupied a large and strong Moorish castle on the left entering the town. Here the army of Dupont, consisting of eight thousand men, laid down their arms to the Spaniards, commanded by Castanos, Reding and Venagas. This check caused Buonaparte to send a fresh army of two hundred thousand vete-

rans into Spain, to ensure its conquest; an event which, at the moment I am writing this, is certainly as far distant as ever, after the loss of half a million of French soldiers: and, indeed, it requires little penetration to discover, that the exterminating system of warfare adopted by France, although it might succeed in a country where the inhabitants could be hemmed into a little space, must inevitably fail in one so extensive and so naturally strong as Spain. Cruelty, therefore, serves only to exasperate the whole nation, of which, while one individual remains, the remembrance will never be obliterated. The assembly of the Cortes has infused a new spirit into the Spanish people, who look with confidence to the wisdom of this august body, for the salvation of their country and the preservation of their liberty. It was a similar confidence in their Congress that carried

the

the Americans through every difficulty to final success, and similar causes produce similar effects.

Quitting Baylen early in the morning of the 23d, we passed through Guaraman, the first of a chain of villages built by Charles the Third, for the reception of a colony of Germans, which he established in the Sierra Morena. This village is regularly built, and the houses exactly alike, but they were now totally deserted, in consequence of the French invasion. Indeed the colony never arrived at any great prosperity; and perhaps it may be admitted as an axiom in politics, that the mere will of the sovereign is totally inadequate for forcing the progress of industry, commerce, or manufactures, and more particularly the latter, whose birth is in general spontaneous, and their growth the effect of local causes and circumstances.

From

From Guaraman we approached the colonial town of Carolina by a fine shaded alley, with rich gardens on each side. This town, as well as five others which we passed through in the Sierra, is surrounded by a wall, with loop holes, and has been regularly fortified by the French, by whom, however, several of the houses have been burnt, and most of the inhabitants had fled. In short, the cruelty and exactions of the invaders have caused this tract of country to be nearly deserted, and hence the grounds remaining uncultivated, the French find it extremely difficult to subsist themselves; thus, in every respect, their exterminating system injures their cause.

At Carolina we put up at a large inn built with cut stone, which however did not afford a single convenience, not even shelter from the weather; for the windows and doors had been burnt and the roof destroyed, so that

that the wind and sleet found a free entrance into every apartment: it is not therefore surprising that we were anxious to quit this scene of desolation, and at break of day (November 24), resumed our route over a most barren tract, and through two colonial villages, both destroyed, and arrived at St. Helena, six leagues from Carolina, and similar to it. This is the last of the colonial towns, it is situated at the foot of the Sierra, and is now totally abandoned. Here we received information that the brigands meditated an attack on the convoy; and the troops in consequence bivouaqued round the town, and other precautions were taken. In a council of war, composed of the principal officers of the escort, it was determined that the Spanish prisoners should be indiscriminately put to death at the moment of attack, and they were accordingly tied two and two,

to

to wait their fate. With this resolution I was made acquainted the following morning by Monsieur Garnier, who added, that "it had "been determined to spare the English pri- "soners, because they were sure they would "join in repelling the brigands." My only acknowledgment of this favour was by replying, "that we had six Frenchmen at least "in England for one Englishman in the "power of the French, and that certainly "any violence perpetrated on an indivi- "dual subject of England, would be se- "verely retaliated; that for my own part, "I had no fears either for my personal "safety or for that of any one of my coun- "trymen, fellow prisoners; and I was sure "the commander of the convoy must re- "flect, that any atrocity of this nature "would not only subject him to the exe- "cration of mankind, but that he would "also be answerable to his own nation for

"sul-

" sullying its honour, and to the whole " civilized world, for a violation of the " laws of war, as well as of the principles " of humanity." I, immediately retired, and put on my uniform.

Towards the foot of the Sierra, among a profusion of romantic views, are many defiles, in passing which the convoy might certainly have been attacked to the greatest advantage: and indeed the expectation of it was so great, that every preparation was made for it; the individuals of the civil part of the escort arming themselves according to their fancy, with guns, swords, or pistols, and some with all three, while their martial appearance was increased by an immense cocked hat, generally stuck on over a red night cap. At length we reached the famous Penon de los Peros, a tremendous rocky precipice, from the sides of which a great variety of large trees and shrubs

shrubs grew out in such a manner, as, on a cursory view, to create astonishment how they could vegetate amidst such barrenness; but a nearer examination shews that the rock is split in every direction, and the cavities filled with rich and humid mould, in which the trees strike their roots, while the rock, which is calcareous, affords a prolific warmth that renders the vegetation extremely luxuriant. At the foot of the precipice flows a river, which was now much swollen by recent rains, and increased the romantic effect of the landscape. Near the precipice is a drawbridge, and on the left of the latter some elevated batteries, commanding others beneath them, the possession of which, had the brigands attempted an attack, would have been of much consequence to the convoy. Farther in advance were the remains of several other batteries, all commanding this formidable

pass,

pass, which it was expected in England would have prevented the penetration of the French army into Andalusia.

Accompanied by General Briott and several French officers, I visited this pass, and found that, like most defiles, its appearance of strength is very deceitful; but even the Spaniards did not know how, or neglected, to make the most of its natural advantages. The sites of their batteries were ill chosen, being commanded on all sides by musquetry, and therefore at the mercy of an enemy who might gain the heights in their rear, or turn their flanks; both of which the French succeeded in. In the passage of the French army, Joseph Buonaparte commanded the centre, with Marshal Soult and General Desolles. Marshal Victor's corps proceeded to the right three days before the movement of the centre, and entered the Sierra nearly opposite Cordova,

dova, advancing in the rear of the Spaniards, with the intention of turning their left; while Sebastiani's corps advanced on the left, in order to turn their right; and thus the Spanish army being flanked and commanded on every side, fled in all directions, with scarce any resistance, and left the French an undisputed passage into the heart of Andalusia. This unexpected misfortune was attempted to be accounted for in various ways, and many persons attributed it to treachery; but this idea, when the nature of the pass, and the force of the Spaniards are considered, must be abandoned; for, first, there was no natural protection for either of the flanks, such as a swamp or river; and, secondly, the Spanish army was barely sufficient to defend the road by which it was to be presumed the French would attempt to pass; as the latter had several other points open to them, by

by which they might cross the mountains, whose extent is so great, that their general defence requires a force greatly superior to what Spain and her allies could at this time have spared for the purpose. The less the event was expected, the greater was the consternation on its arrival, and the Junto of Seville, who had placed entire confidence in this Thermopylæ of Spain, was cautiously and tediously proceeding in its deliberations, without having once thought of providing against a disaster, which it had not the most distant idea could ever arrive.

CHAPTER XII.

General observations on Andalusia....Soil and climate....Face of the country....Forests....Population....Effects of the French invasion....Agriculture....Horses....Manufactures....Commerce....Distinguished characters....National character....Mines....Mineral waters.

Before I quit Andalusia, I trust my readers will not find uninteresting or misplaced, the few observations my mode of travelling permitted me to make on that kingdom, the chief seat of the war in Spain at the time of my passing through it. I have already cursorily observed, that the soil and climate of this part of Spain are eminently calculated to afford the same vegetable productions as the tropical colonies, and that therefore its possession by

France

France would render those colonies almost unnecessary to her. Like all mountainous regions, Andalusia offers the most romantic scenery to the picturesque traveller, while the agriculturist admires the richness of its vallies, which aided by a genial climate, yield in the same extent of surface nearly double the quantity of wine, oil, and corn, produced in any other part of Europe: and hence it has deservedly acquired the title of "the wine cellar and granary of Spain." Even the mountains, which in most other countries are unproductive, are here a source of riches, in the great variety of marbles they contain, valuable both for the fineness of grain and the mixture of colours.

The extensive forests of Andalusia, and particularly those of evergreen oak, constitute an object of national riches. These trees attain a magnitude that would in other

countries be considered with astonishment; nor, indeed, have I ever seen any of the vegetable reign arrive at such immensity, except those of Brazil, where several species of trees grow to a size that entitle them to the name of giants of the forest.

The population and industry of Andalusia have never recovered the blow they received by the expulsion of the Moors, at which epoch an immense number of towns and villages were seated on the banks of the Guadalquivir alone, and the population of the kingdom was estimated at seven millions, of which Grenada contained three millions. According to the most recent estimation, the number of inhabitants is now but two millions, of which it is said one fourth at least are useless to society by their religious vows. Here I cannot help observing that, whatever may be the event of the present contest, the Spanish nation will

will derive an inestimable benefit from the invasion of the French, in getting rid of such legions of monks, who not only, like drones in a hive, hang a dead weight on the industry of the community, but, what is still worse, are the great obstacles to all national improvement, by the gross ignorance in which it is their interest to keep the people; for we can scarcely suppose it possible that, should the French be finally driven out of Spain, the Spanish government or nation will be so lost to common sense, as to restore the monastic orders.

The observation that, "where nature is "most bountiful, the people are most in-"dolent," is no where more completely verified than in Andalusia. Even the olive trees, which constitute a considerable portion not only of the wealth, but of the very subsistence of the people, are so neglected, that generally nine out of ten are half de-

cayed, or the vegetation only preserved by a single narrow strip of bark, while all the rest of the trunk is naked; nevertheless, such is the fertility of the soil, that a tree thus deprived of nine-tenths of its bark, is seen loaded with fruit.

But though in general agriculture is little understood in Andalusia, it is more advanced in some districts than in others, which is probably to be ascribed to the different direction of leases. In many parts, the tenant holds only for three years, in others for five; but neither term is sufficient to induce the farmer to go to any expence in improvement: on the contrary, it is evidently his interest to get the most he can out of the soil, at the least possible expence. Such, however, is the richness of the soil, the abundance of water consequent to a mountainous country, and the equal temperature of the climate, that the lands retain

retain their fertility almost undiminished, in spite of the vicious system of agriculture.

The *mesta*, or ancient custom of driving vast flocks of sheep from one end of the kingdom to the other for pasture, which is protected by the Government, is also extremely unfavourable to the improvement as well as to the extension of cultivation.

The valley through which the Guadalquivir winds its course, is supereminently fertile, and from it the French armies derive the greatest part of their forage and provisions. The sides of the mountains to the north of Cordova are covered with vineyards and gardens, interspersed with groves of lemons and orange trees; in short, the territory of Fernan Nunez, about four leagues from Cordova, is but one continued beautiful garden for many miles.

The provinces of Seville and Grenada are the most fruitful in barley and maize;

the former, mixed with chopped straw, is the general food of the horses, for giving them barley alone is said to produce disease. The neighbourhood of Seville, Cordova, and Andujar produce abundance of wheat, and the quantity of this grain raised in the whole of Andalusia, is said to be double its consumption. The crops particularly near the coast are, however, very uncertain, the Levant wind often destroying them, as well as the *Solano*, which blows in scorching blasts from the coast of Africa, and produces a similar effect to the blight. The coasts of Grenada are most exposed to this baneful wind, and here, therefore, the cultivation of hemp is preferred, this plant receiving no injury from it.

Amongst Spanish wines those of Andalusia are the most esteemed, and particularly those of Grenada. The wines of the territory

territory of Malaga are highly celebrated, and of which there are twenty to thirty varieties; those of Pietro Zimenes, the Muscatel, and the Tierno are of superior quality. Farther west dry wines are chiefly produced, of which the most esteemed are those of Rota and Xeres: of the latter, known by the name of sherry, fifty thousand quintals * are exported annually, chiefly by the port of Malaga, from which was also exported three hundred thousand quintals of raisins, the grapes of this district being of a very superior quality, and requiring no other preparation than merely hanging to dry in the sun.

The wine named Montella, produced in the vicinity of Cordova, is the most esteemed in the country. The olives of the territory

A quintal in weight is one hundred pounds English; in liquid measure twelve gallons.

territory of Seville are reckoned of a superior quality, but the oil made from them is generally rancid, owing, doubtless, to the negligent manner of preparing it.

The Andalusian horses are deservedly considered the best of Spain, and this superiority they owe to the facility of crossing them with those of Barbary, by the constant intercourse between the coasts.

The manufactures of Andalusia, which were formerly very considerable, particularly those of Seville, have constantly declined since the beginning of the seventeenth century. The silk manufactures of Cordova, Grenada, Seville, and Malaga, are, however, still flourishing, and those of Xeres and Puerto de Santa Maria respectable. Coarse woollens are also manufactured to a considerable extent in several towns. From the royal tobacco manufactory at Seville issues an immense quantity

of

of segars and snuff, the latter named *polvillis.* At Velez Malaga is a manufactory of playing cards, the only one I believe in Spain, and which supplies both the whole kingdom and the colonies. Besides the sugar works at Malaga, there are some respectable ones at Motril.

The general commerce of Andalusia, though much declined from its ancient splendour, was still considerable at the period of the present invasion, the chief trading ports being Almeria, Malaga, and Cadiz. Almeria was, during the Moorish dominion, one of the most commercial cities of Europe, which it owed principally to the goodness of its port, at the head of a gulf, sheltered from the Levant winds by the promontory of Cape de Gata. A pestilential disease, which desolated the city in the fourteenth century, gave the first blow to its commerce, and the expulsion of the Moors

Moors totally annihilated it; nor have two centuries been able to restore it. The commerce of Malaga, as I have before observed, has been totally destroyed by French *fraternity* or *invasion*, words synonymous in their effects; and this example ought to warn every nation to guard as cautiously against the one as the other. The exports from Malaga formerly amounted to upwards of three millions of piastres, of which oil alone furnished one million, while the imports did not amount to two millions. Cadiz, until 1776, enjoyed the sole trade of the colonies, and though this commerce has been opened to all the principal ports of Spain, it still retained two-thirds of the whole. The wars with England, however, reduced it to a cipher, before the French invasion. In 1791 this port sent one hundred and seventy-seven ships to the colonies, and in 1801 only twenty

twenty cleared out from all the ports of Spain; no other proof need be adduced, how greatly it is the interest of Spain to be on good terms with England, who can thus in a moment annihilate the most valuable branch of her commerce, and upon which the very existence of her government, in the present state of the country, depends. The French invasion, and the vast efforts made by England to support Spanish independence, will doubtless unite the two nations more closely than ever, and, therefore, even in a commmercial view (supposing France to fail in the subjection of the country, which I think is not problematic), she must lose considerably by the mistaken ambition of Buonaparte, for Spain will certainly procure hereafter from the British islands many of the articles which she formerly received from France, and other nations now subject to her. Thus

Irish

Irish linens have already superseded those of Holland, and if the colonies should succeed in their efforts for independence, another consequence of the French invasion, they will certainly receive the manufactured objects they require from England, rather than from France. The exports of woollens alone from Marseilles to Spain, chiefly for the use of the colonies, was estimated at twelve millions of francs.

At the head of the distinguished characters to whom Andalusia has given birth, must be placed Seneca, the great master of sententious morality. During the Moorish dominion the arts and sciences were highly cultivated, and rose to a great degree of perfection; particularly astronomy, mathematics, and medicine, in the last of which the Moors made vast improvements, and introduced a new system of physiology, which superseded that of the Greeks, and

which

which was first adopted in France, from whence it found its way into the rest of Europe.

Andalusia has produced some poets of eminence of both sexes. Among the men Ferdinand de Herrera is the most esteemed, and among the females Aischa of Cordova, and Maria Alpharsati, surnamed the Sappho of Spain, whose picture I observed in several of the first collections.

This kingdom has also the honour of giving birth to several eminent painters, at the head of whom may be placed Paul Cespides, who was a universal genius, excelling equally in painting, engraving, architecture and poetry. Antonio Murillo deserves the second place. The Spaniards being extremely fond of music, this art has of course made considerable progress among them, but the national music is still far inferior to that of Italy or France.

Malaga

Malaga has produced some good botanists and chemists, whose works are to be found in the public libraries.

It is justly a matter of surprise, that during such a contest as the present, not a single Spaniard of superior talents or abilities has appeared on the great theatre of action, while the French revolution has brought forth geniusses of almost every description. Perhaps paucity of talent among the Spaniards is owing to the influence of the clergy not being yet sufficiently weakened, to permit the general adoption of a more liberal system of education, which can alone produce the desired revolution in the moral habits of the nation. In fact, what energy of action can be expected from a people, who trust more to a patron saint for protection than to their own courage. The soldier, who places his sole confidence in a relick suspended on his breast, may

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go into battle with the appearance of valour, but will surely turn his back the moment he thinks his saint has forsaken him. The inquisitorial prohibition of all books containing liberal sentiments on religion, morality, natural philosophy, or politics, still exists, and a list of such books is seen hung up in every church. In some of the public libraries, however, these books are allowed a separate place, over which is inscribed "*Books of Reference*," to denote that they are for the use of the learned alone, and not to be read by all persons indiscriminately, although in general they are the only books worth reading in the collections.

The Andalusians are distinguished from the natives of the other provinces of Spain by a peculiarity of costume and manners; the former they seem to have preserved from a very early period, and the *montero*

cap is still universally worn by the peasantry, whose common dress is a light jacket with three close rows of oval buttons, and two of loops and tassels. Buttons indeed seem to be their favourite ornament, for to each knee of the breeches they have usually twenty to thirty hung to silver chains, and two rows to the waistcoat fixed in a similar manner. Their shoes are out of measure long quartered, and as well as the knee bands fastened by enormous silver buckles. The men plait their hair in a neat manner and fasten it at the extremity with a black ribbon, tied in a bow, which hangs half way down the back. The Andalusian prides himself on his country, and is seriously offended at being mistaken for a native of any other province, even though it should be of Castille itself. The *Bullero* and *Fandango* with castanets are the favourite dances of the Andalusians, and they usually accompany

accompany them with a popular song, which greatly adds to their effect. The number of *Gustanos* or gypsies, scattered over this province is very considerable; their women, though their complexions are very dark, have in general fine features and brilliant eyes; these vagabonds were formerly protected by the nobles, in return for which, their stiletto was always at their patron's service, to revenge his injuries on his enemies, or satisfy his jealousy of a rival. In travelling through Spain the idea of assassination is every moment recalled to the mind, by the crosses erected to mark the spots where this crime has been committed, and the number of these *ecce-signa* proves the astonishing prevalence of this cowardly species of revenge.

Even a sketch of the natural history of Andalusia would lead me far beyond the limits I have prescribed to myself in this

journal. I cannot however forbear mentioning the mines of gold and silver, which during the Roman dominion were celebrated for their richness, but which are at present not worth the working. Amongst the most noted are those of Linarez in the province of Jaen, which were worked by the Carthaginians, and were the property of the beautiful Himila, wife of Asdrubal. They were still productive in the time of the Romans, and are described as being two thousand feet deep, and having several galleries. There are some rich copper mines on the banks of the Tinto, not far from Cordova. The kingdom of Grenada has several warm mineral springs chiefly sulphureous, of which the most celebrated are those of Alhama at Grenada, and one within two miles of Antequera, famous for the cure of gravel complaints. To such of my readers as may wish for a detailed account of the mineral

waters

waters of this province, I can recommend a treatise on them by Don Juan de Dios Aguda, a copy of which was lent me at Andujar by the good priest I have already mentioned.

CHAPTER XIII.

La Mancha....Contrast with Andalusia ....Santa Cruz....Beauty of the Country....Val de Penas ....Regiment of Nassau....Convoy from France ....Italian Marquis .... Manzanares ....Sunday evening dances.

On entering La Mancha from Andalusia the traveller is forcibly struck by the great contrast both in the face of the country, the architecture of the buildings, and the costume of the people, which are as different from those of Andalusia, as if the two provinces formed distinct nations. Andalusia is covered with chains or groups of mountains, while La Mancha is but one immense plain, the soil a deep clay, highly cultivated and extremely productive. The stile of architecture

chitecture and the arrangement of the apartments in Andalusia are light and chearful, in La Mancha both are heavy and sombre.

Though the roads of Spain are in general horribly bad, that by which we entered La Mancha is an exception, being sixty feet wide, and in excellent order, so that we advanced rapidly, and reached Santa Cruz, from St. Helena, in the evening of November 24. Santa Cruz is the first town of La Mancha, towards the Sierra Morena, and has nothing worthy of note. The streets are narrow and badly paved, and the houses, built of clay or of dirty coloured bricks, there being no stone in the neighbourhood, are entered by a large court yard, round which are the stables and other out offices. The naturally unchearful look of the town was now increased by the ravages of war, the French having recently des-

troyed nearly one half of it, and the description my hosts gave me of their own deplorable situation and of the general misery, by no means tended to chase away the melancholy feelings inspired by this scene of wanton cruelty. The invaders, however, while they destroyed the houses of the defenceless inhabitants, had taken care to repair and garrison a castle close to the town.

November 25. Early in the morning we resumed our journey towards Toledo by a very bad cross road, the roughness of which was however in some measure compensated by the beauty of the country, which presented a series of luxuriant meadows, covered with the finest turf, watered by numerous rivulets, and clotted with clumps of majestic evergreen oaks, under which vast herds of cattle formerly sought shelter from the wind and rain in winter, and which doubtless in summer afforded them a shaded

retreat

retreat from the ardour of the sun. But this beautiful tract was now a desert, without peasants to cultivate it, or cattle to crop the herb. The numerous villages and hamlets which formerly afforded the traveller the chearful appearance of rural comfort, were now laid in ashes, the inhabitants either massacred or fled, and nought to be seen around but the desolation of an exterminating warfare. In short, the painter of landscape could in no part of the world find more beautiful scenery to occupy his pencil, nor the poet more affecting objects to employ his pen.

In the course of this day's march we had to cross a piece of water and wind round a small hill, which offers an excellent defensive position for an army, the pass not being above twelve feet wide, and its flank guarded by a deep river. We halted for a short time at the village of Val de Penas, midway

midway between Santa Cruz and Manzanares, and which is celebrated for a wine made in the vicinity resembling Port, but not so strong. We were now obliged to content ourselves with that of the last vintage, the French troops in their passage having exhausted all the old; but the Alcade of the village kindly filled my little barrel with the best that remained, and which I calculated would serve me and my companion to Toledo.

At Val de Penas our escort was increased by six hundred infantry of the regiment of Nassau, and two hundred hussars of the same corps; the battalion of infantry of this regiment was now twelve hundred strong, and remarkably well appointed. Instead of our cumbersome tin canteens, which are continually wanting repair, each man had a skin bottle with a wooden or bone mouth piece, and holding about five pints; the

the older these vessels are, the more valuable.

Among the officers of this corps I recognized a Mr. Stelms, who had deserted from the French to us, and afterwards re-deserted back again to the French. This double deserter was received by the French officers with the greatest apparent cordiality, and a serjeant and some soldiers who had followed his example were as graciously received by their comrades, which induced me to ask one of the officers if they really considered this total want of honour as meritorious? to which he made no other reply than, the usual one of a Frenchman when he does not know what to answer, a shrug of the shoulders. Mr. Stelms remained with his corps; but the serjeant, who had all the appearance of a perfect ruffian, was marched onward, and I had

had the pleasure of seeing him put in irons at Madrid.

Outside of Val de Penas we met a large convoy from France going into Andalusia, many of the persons in which could not refrain from loudly expressing their joy at seeing a few English prisoners, as if the fate of the war depended on our freedom or captivity. In this convoy I observed several carriages built on the model of English post chaises, but incapable of supporting a comparison as to the finish. With respect to the French convoys, care is taken that two shall not meet at the same village; but this is doubtless more for their own sakes, to prevent a scarcity of provisions and quarters, than from any regard to the Spaniards. In the present case however this precaution was unnecessary, for we found provisions abundant, even to profusion, at Val de Penas.

Between

Between this village and Manzanares we passed through or near several ruined villages. On approaching Manzanares, we were met by several Polish officers and gentlemen of the town, amongst whom I was surprised to see a certain Marquis de Salinas, whom I had formerly met at Lord Nelson's and Sir William Hamilton's houses at Palermo. At that time he was the holder of a Pharo bank, and besides collected *modern antiques* for travelling gentlemen, who wished to acquire the reputation of *cognoscenti.* As the Marquis always produced his acquisitions of this nature in company, with a long harangue on their inestimable value, and the low price they were to be sold for, he generally disposed of them with ease, and I, among others, took some off his hands, which, though certainly more antique now than when I bought them, I would willingly spare under prime cost.

cost. Long absence, we are told, weakens friendship; and with respect to the Italian Marquis, I found that it weakens shame also, for though he was obliged to quit Palermo precipitately, in consequence of being openly detected cheating at play at Sir William Hamilton's, in my presence, and was afterwards turned out of the English fleet by Lord Keith, on violent suspicion of being a spy of the French, he now accosted me with an air of perfect composure, expressed his happiness at meeting me, and insisted on escorting me to my quarters. Knowing him to be an entertaining fellow, from whom I might derive both information and amusement. I determined to look over the slight blemish of being a professed swindler; and, indeed, he seemed himself to think this no blot in his character, for he adverted to the transaction at Palermo, and treated it as a mere *bagatelle*. The story he now related

lated of himself was, that, expecting the French to become masters of Sicily, he thought it the best policy to secure his property there by espousing their cause; that he therefore quitted that island for Spain, and being married to a Spanish lady, who possessed property at Manzanares, he had just come from Madrid to take possession of it, but found that a French General had been beforehand with him, and now occupied his house by military tenure; at the same time, that his Spanish tenants were unable to pay their rents, from the disturbed and distressed state of the country, and, that being disappointed in his expectations of the French becoming masters of Sicily, he could draw no succours from thence. The noble Marquis found in me a Job's comforter; for, instead of condoling with him, I related the several unsuccessful attempts of the French on Sicily, and assured

sured him that they had now seemingly given up the idea, as hopeless, while the English retained their superiority at sea.

November 25. As the convoy were to halt for the day at Manzanares, in the morning I walked out of the town over a fine plain, and entered into conversation with some country people, who, when they understood I was an English officer, told me all their sufferings from the tyranny of the French, and assured me, that if any of the English officers wished to escape, they should be provided that night with horses, money, and guides. This was not the first by many offers of the same nature that I had received; but even had I not been on parole, the liberality of General Sebastiani's conduct to me had been such, that I should have felt it impossible to take advantage of them. On my return to the town, I waited on General Loye, who received me politely, invited

invited me to dinner, and in the mean time asked me to accompany him to see a bull-fight. This diversion, which took place in the public square, was, however, wretched in the extreme, the animals, except one, being mere calves, which the squibs and darts thrown at them by some men and boys on foot (for there were no cavaliers) could not irritate; the old one was less patient, and soon cleared the square.

The General gave me an excellent dinner with a good fire, and many of the guests being officers of the old school, and consequently of gentlemanly manners, the evening passed pleasantly, and was closed with a dance, at which all the ladies of the town were assembled; in whose persons, dress, or manners, I saw little to admire. One lady and gentleman danced a Fandango with castanets in a very good stile.

In all the large towns occupied by the French, it is customary for the Governor to give a dance to the inhabitants every Sunday evening, the expence of which is either defrayed by the Government, or certain emoluments are granted the Governor in lieu.

November 26. Early in the morning we resumed our march, and in the evening reached Villa Robeda, or Rubia, only worthy of notice from its vicinity to the source of the Guadiamar. On the following day (November 27), after passing through a level tract of country, formerly producing a great quantity of corn, we arrived at Consuegra. In this day's march, a hare starting up close to us: I followed it with Monsieur Garnier, who had a greyhound, but we were soon obliged to halt, on coming in sight of some brigands' vedettes, who had kept on our flanks for the last two days, and

and gave us continual alarm. Consuegra is the best town we had yet seen in La Mancha, but has suffered greatly from the war, and more particularly, as I learnt, from the German troops, who in the act of desolation excel even the French. Our present escort being entirely composed of these demi savages, the prisoners felt the full extent of their brutality, a blow with the butt end of a musquet being the only answer to any complaint. Witnessing a fact of this nature myself, I remonstrated with the commanding officer in the strongest terms, and positively refused to march another step, even though death was to be the consequence, unless the ruffian was punished, and he was accordingly marched on as a prisoner.

At Consuegra is a Moorish castle, capable of receiving a garrison of four thousand men. It is in good repair, and almost inac-

cessible, so that the Spaniards must have been infatuated, not to have seen the great advantage of occupying it at the commencement of the war.

On the following day (November 27), we reached Mora, a miserable village, where we halted, to wait for a reinforcement; it being reported that *Il Medico* was in possession of the Castle of Almunaire, on the route to Toledo, and that he had a considerable force. *Il Medico* (the name which the French have, in derision of his profession of physician, given to this chief) is properly called Martinez. He was forced into his present situation by the cruelties of the French, who not only confiscated his property, but personally ill treated himself and his family, which rendering him desperate, he joined a body of the patriots, and was declared their chief. His force at this time was said to be eight hundred infantry

fantry and four hundred cavalry, with which he was extremely successful in harassing the French, and cutting off their convoys. His acts of personal courage have been also so daring, that his name alone strikes terror. The two expresses dispatched successively to Toledo for a reinforcement having fallen into the hands of the patriots, we were obliged to halt a second day at Mora (November 28), and to kill time, a *partie de chasse* was proposed. From the preparations of hawking bags, powder and shot, flasks, and other sporting apparatus, as well as from the conversation on the subject, I anticipated an excellent day's sport: but a sportsman only can conceive my disappointment, when I found that the game was confined to larks and sparrows; nor did my companions expect to meet any other than these last poor birds. We in four hours killed a couple of dozen,

who were tranquilly picking up the scattered grains of corn in the yard of a corn mill, which, together with half a dozen larks, a couple of tomtits, a robbin redbreast, and a wren, constituted our day's sport. In this true Cockney shooting party we were accompanied by a hundred cavalry and infantry.

On our return, I was invited to dine with Monsieur Denia at six o'clock; the dinner was not, however, served till past eight, and was as cold as the weather, which was extremely severe, and kept me in a shivering fit, though seated next to Madame Benedicio, whose rotundity of waist and ruddiness of countenance would have entitled her to be drawn as the emblem of the rising sun. The produce of our day's sport, roasted on wooden skewers, were served up as head and foot dishes, and afforded as animated a conversation on shooting,

shooting, as if we had been grouse or deer-shooting in the Highlands of Scotland. Our wine was little better than vinegar, and as I could not get a drop of brandy to qualify it, I was obliged to accept a glass of *agua ardiente* from a soldier's canteen.

On my return to my quarters, I found a French officer had put his baggage into my apartment, which I did not much relish at first; but he soon waited on me, and apologized so politely for his intrusion, that I could not be angry. He greatly resembled the pictures I have seen of Charles the Twelfth, having a long beard and bald head. He assured me that these had been his regular quarters for the last three months, whenever he was allowed to sleep in a bed; but added, that not having his boots off for three weeks, one night more would make no difference, and he insisted

on not deranging me. Of course I repaid his politeness, by expressing my satisfaction at the accident that led to our acquaintance. As I found he had served in Egypt, we passed a part of the night conversing on the military and civil proceedings of the French in that country, over a bowl of punch and a segar.

November 29. Early in the morning we set out on our last day's march for Toledo, leaving on our right the strong castle of Almunaire, near which a battle was fought the preceding year, between the French and Spaniards, the former commanded by Sebastiani. Colonel Watalais, of the engineers, who was in our convoy, had been present at this affair, and pointed out to me the plain on which the Spaniards were drawn up, without any protection either to their front or flanks. He acknowledged

that

that the French deserved little credit for the defeat of a mere set of peasants, hastily collected, badly armed, and without discipline or commanders, or even confidence in each other; so that the line being once broken, it was impossible to reform it, and a total route and dreadful carnage took place. The town of Almunaire had been reduced to ashes, as well as that of Arano, between it and Toledo, where another battle was fought with equal ill success on the part of the Spaniards. In this affair the infantry was commanded by Soult and Mortier, and the cavalry by Sebastiani, who is, however, but a general of infantry; but the French often make these transpositions, every Frenchman being supposed to possess universal genius.

On approaching Toledo, the country becomes mountainous and less fertile; and the road

road by which the town is entered, is absolutely dangerous for carriages, from its steep and rocky declivity, and its bad state. It leads to a bridge across the Tagus, from which the view is romantically wild.

CHAPTER XIV.

Toledo ..... Tomb of Caba ..... Cathedral .....
Roast beef and plum pudding *à la Française* .....
Campaign in Flanders ..... Sincerity of foreigners.

We entered Toledo by the gate of St. Martin, near which the first object that attracts notice is the tomb of Caba, daughter of Count St. Julian, whose violation by Roger the First, King of the Goths, was the cause of the invasion of Spain by the Moors. When this crime was perpetrated, St. Julian, who was of the blood royal of Spain, was Governor of Ceuta, on the coast of Barbary, and determining to revenge the affront offered to his family in the person of his daughter, solicited the assistance of the Caliph of Bagdad, whom

in

in return he promised to aid in the conquest of Spain, which could not be difficult, the Spaniards detesting the yoke of the Goths. The Caliph accordingly sent ten thousand men, under the command of a general named Tariff,* who landed at Gibraltar, and met with little difficulty in the conquest of Andalusia, so that the Caliph the following year sent forty thousand men, under Mufa, who subdued the peninsula with the exception of Asturias, and founded the empire of the Moors in Spain. The patricide St. Julian retired to Bagdad, where it is supposed he was poisoned, and his daughter dying at Toledo, the capital of the kingdom of Andalusia, under the Moors,

* Tariffa, now so conspicuous, near Gibraltar, for the defence lately made by Colonel Skerrett and the 47th regiment, was so called from Tariff's landing there.

Moors, the tomb I have mentioned was erected over her remains.

Immediately on my arrival at my quarters, I received an invitation to dinner from General Lavoiser, and, *en attendant*, I accompanied him to visit the cathedral. It being the *fête* of St. Andrew, high mass was celebrating, so that we were obliged to wait until it was finished, to see the church more circumstantially. We visited the cloisters, the walls of which are finely painted in imitation of bas relief, by Francisco Bayeu, a modern artist, the painting not being twenty years old, and who certainly merits greater celebrity than he has acquired. The most striking picture represents the inside of a prison, the figures being the natural size, and the relief so perfect, that it is scarcely possible to avoid believing one's self in the company of living captives, insomuch that one instantaneously

stantaneously looks round for a way to escape, which seems to be prevented by iron bars and surrounding naked walls. In short, this representation is, in painting, what Sterne's picture of Captivity is in writing. Another of the paintings represents mendicants receiving alms, at the bottom of the staircase of a great house, over the bannisters of which two persons are leaning and giving them money; a third is the figure of a woman in the middle of a passage, soliciting charity; her out-stretched arm and open hand, her doleful countenance, tattered garments, and appearance of superlative wretchedness, so compleatly deceived me for the moment, that I involuntarily put my hand into my pocket to relieve her. There are also some paintings in the same style by Morelli, but so inferior, as only to serve as foils to those of Bayeu. At one end of the cloister is a column,

column, with a Latin inscription denoting the consecration of the church in 630, and in the first year of the reign of the Gothic King, Flavius Recoredo. It is as follows:

In nomina Dei consecra
Ia ecclesia Scta. Maria
In Catolico dio primo
Idus Aprilis anno felicitur primo regni Domini
Nostri gloriosissimi Fl. Recaredi regis era.
DCXXX.

This cathedral was converted into a mosque by the Moors, but they were obliged to restore it to the Christians by Queen Constance, who dispossessed them of it by an armed force. It was rebuilt by Ferdinand in 1227. The inside is three hundred and forty-eight feet long by one hundred and sixty-four wide. The *sacristie* is supported by a great number of white marble columns, and the pavement is of large alternate

alternate squares of white and black marble. The numerous secondary altars are richly ornamented with sculpture, and have some valuable paintings. Round the aisle are several monuments of the archbishops, and other dignitaries of the cathedral, and a great number of white marble statues of saints, patriarchs, and prophets in niches. Among the pictures, one of the Transfiguration is esteemed of the highest value. In the sanctuary are many interesting historical statues, particularly one of the shepherd, who guided King Alfonzo the Eighth at the battle of las Nieva de Tolosa, and one of the Moorish king Alfaqui.

In the *sacristie* are also the tombs of Alfonzo the Seventh, and of the Cardinal Pedro de Mendoza; the latter consists of several figures, of which an evangelist at each of the four corners, in bas relief, are inimitably

inimitably executed: this monument is surrounded by an iron railing.

Of the numerous chapels within the cathedral, that of St. Peter is most worthy of notice; it was rebuilt in 1791, and now serves as a parish church. The architecture is gothic, and the altars and tables are composed of the most scarce and valuable marbles; the principal picture in it is St. Peter curing the lame at the gate of the Temple, by Vallego. The chapel de los Reges Nuovos, or New King's Chapel, contains the tombs of many of the sovereigns and princes of Spain, particularly those of John, eldest son of Henry the Second, and his wife Eleanor; of Catherine, wife of Henry the Third, with a statue of John the Second, whose remains are at Mirapalous, near Burgos. This chapel has also a large picture of the birth of Christ.

In the chapel of St. James, among other

objects of merit, are the magnificent tombs of Fereguolo, Archbishop of Toledo, who died in 1742, and that of Alvarez de Luna, Grand Master of the Order of St. James, and Constable of Castille, the favourite and prime minister of John the Second, but who lost his head by order of that sovereign at Valladolid, in 1452. At each corner of this monument is a figure the size of life, kneeling with the strongest expression of sorrow, and it has besides many fine bas reliefs.

Passing the chapel of St. Ildefonso, in which there are some things worthy of notice, that of Nuestra Senoria del Sacrario most forcibly calls the attention. It consists of three distinct chapels: one, from its octagon shape, is called the Octravo; the second is square, and immensely rich, the floor and pillars being of the most beautiful marbles, and the ceiling

ceiling finely painted by Carducho; and the third is also an octagon, and equally rich, having several golden urns set with diamonds and placed in niches, and an image of the infant Jesus, a foot high, of solid gold, ornamented with precious stones. On a throne of massive silver formerly rested an image of the Virgin, but both throne and image have vanished; a large silver *brasiero*, however, still remains, doubtless to form, with the other valuables, a *bonne bouche* for the French on a future day. The image of the Virgin in this chapel is of the most exquisite workmanship.

The *vestriano*, which adjoins the *sacristie*, as well as another adjacent apartment, still contains some rich church furniture, though the French have taken care of the most valuable. Amongst those which remain are a dress of the Virgin, covered with pearls, and the archbishop's robes of

the richest embroidered stuffs. In this apartment are also emblematical representations of the four quarters of the world.

The *sacristie* is finely ornamented, the dome painted by Jordan, the tables of beautiful yellow marble, and the numerous pictures encased in frames of gold, bronze, and different marbles. The most valuable paintings are a Samaritan by Reubens, the Deluge by Bassan, an Assumption, I believe by d'Onento, the Division of Christ's Garments by the same artist, and a St. Augustine. The tabernacle is of the most superb workmanship; and the library contains a very large collection of books, and above seven thousand manuscripts.

Before the grand gate of the cathedral is a small terrace, enclosed by an iron railing, with six columns of white marble, each surmounted by a lion of the same material. The gate itself, and the architecture round it,

it, are ornamented with a variety of sculptured figures, but rather too much crowded, and some good statues.

Having amply satisfied my curiosity in the cathedral, we next visited the archiepiscopal palace, now occupied by a French General. It is a large uncomfortable building, remarkable for nothing but a library, in which are some scarce books and manuscripts.

From this place I proceeded to the General's, where I found a large party had been invited to meet me. The moment we sat down the General informed me, that he had purposely provided a treat of roast beef and plum pudding, both of which he assured me were drest *à l'Anglaise;* and carving an immense slice, which proved to be scarcely warmed, he exclaimed triumphantly, "*du moins je crois que cela doit être* "*à votre goût!*" This exclamation drew

on me the eyes of the whole company, who seemingly expected, with anxious curiosity, to see me devour this raw and tough carrion; and as I could not with politeness send it away untouched, I forced myself to swallow a few mouthfuls, which a glass of brandy assisted me to keep down. The plum pudding was then served up, and could only be equalled in execrableness by the beef, being a solid lump of half-boiled dough, that would have required the powers of an ostrich to digest. Added to these little *désagrémens*, the General was most tiresomely civil, particularly with his hands, which were scarce a moment off my shoulders. He also wearied me with the history of his achievements, when commanding a body of cavalry under General Pichegru, in Holland and Flanders; and when he learnt that I had been in the same campaign, he entered into some particulars which

which were not uninteresting to me. He, I found, commanded the cavalry at Boxtel, near Bois-le-Duc, at the affair of Michael Ghastel's Bridge, where I was engaged under General Dœering, and where the Hesse Darmstadt troops were severely cut up, losing in killed, wounded, and prisoners, nineteen hundred men, out of two thousand five hundred, while the 89th regiment, which I commanded, successfully resisted the same force of the enemy, though not without considerable loss. To whatever cause the destruction of the Hesse Darmstadt troops was owing, General Dœering felt it so severely, I understand, that he *shot himself shortly after the action*; and *my regiment, in consequence of its loss, was ordered to fall back on a detachment* commanded by Sir William Erskine, at Middleroad. The following morning detachments of the guards, and of the 12th

and 33d regiments, under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, marched to attack the enemy, but finding them considerably reinforced by Pichegru himself, the British were obliged to fall back, and the retreat of the whole army followed. This military conversation being only interesting to the General and myself, I endeavoured to render it more general, by questioning a well informed priest respecting Toledo, and other subjects. The General, who is certainly one of the vainest of Frenchmen, although in all respects a *bon garçon*, soon interrupted our conversation by a long eulogium on his snuff-box, which on my praising he insisted on my accepting, with, "*c'est bien à votre* "*service, et je vous prie de la garder* "*comme un souvenir;*" and on my repeated rejection, it was "*mettez-la dans votre* "*poche, je vous en prie,*" at the same time squeezing

squeezing my hand with such warmth, that at one time I could have really thought him sincere. But *à propos* of snuffboxes and sincerity: I remember in Sicily a Highland Quarter Master, a rough diamond, who taking a Sicilian Marquis at his word, quietly pocketed a snuffbox thus pressed on him; but nothing being farther from the Marquis's intention or expectation, he complained to me, as commanding officer, that he had been robbed of his snuffbox. On enquiry I found, from the testimony of all the officers present, that the Marquis had really pressed the box on the Quarter Master, who deeming his right to keep it undoubted, regarded not my representations, that such offers made by foreigners were considered by them as mere words of course. The value of the box, which he had nicely estimated, as well as the advice of the junior officers, who

who wished to see some fun, made him resolute in his determination, and it was with a good deal of difficulty that I at last persuaded him to return it. On enquiring if he was under any other obligation to the Marquis, he replied, that he recollected none except for a glass of water, and that he would repay it, when, calling for a tumbler of water, he presented it to the Marquis, saying, " now, Mynheer, we " are quits ;" for having served in Holland, where he discovered that *mynheer* signified *sir*, he concluded it was the same in every other foreign country.

But to return to the General's. After dinner several visitors arriving, he proposed retiring up stairs, where were prepared a good fire, plenty of punch, and cards. After a sober rubber at whist, the punch beginning to mount, Trente et Quarante was introduced ; but as my purse was rather

ther low, I told the General I could not play deep, when he produced a heap of gold and begged me to help myself. At first I had a run of extreme bad luck, and became considerably in debt, but fortune changing, I at last rose a winner to the amount of four hundred pounds.

CHAPTER XV.

From Toledo to Madrid....Tagus....Regiment of Hesse Darmstadt....Cruelty to a poor Spaniard.... Miss the mules on the road....The General in the mud.

November 30. It being daylight before I could get away from the General, I found the convoy in motion, and consequently was obliged to mount my house, without having been in bed. We passed through the city from end to end, and through a highly ornamented gate, outside of which is a fine promenade.

The Tagus surrounds about two-thirds of Toledo, and was navigable from this city to the sea in 1588. The quay, at which the boats loaded and discharged, is still to be seen,

seen, and is called the Plaza de los Barces. The town is built on hills, the streets in general are very narrow, and many of the houses in ruin; the whole presenting the appearance of poverty and decline.

Though the General had invited me to partake of a sumptuous breakfast, I preferred a crust of ration bread and a glass of spirits in the open air, to the necessity of submitting a second time to his great attention.

I was somewhat surprised at finding General Lavoisier in the convoy, for though he swore to me that his friendship was so great that he would accompany me to Madrid, I put no more faith in his sincerity in this respect, than I had done in that of the snuff-box. He insisted that I should live with him during the journey; but as I did not admire this plan, I begged to decline his polite offer.

A part

A part of our escort consisted of a detachment of the Hesse Darmstadt regiment, in garrison at Toledo, and among the officers were several who had served in the British pay in Holland. A Spanish regiment also guarded us; and it would be difficult to say which, the Spaniards or Germans, were most brutal in their conduct to the prisoners. On the march I was addressed by a soldier, who at first pretended to be a Spaniard; but on observing to him that his broad brogue denoted the green isle of his nativity too plainly to admit of his deceiving me, he acknowledged that he had deserted from the 87th regiment. He recounted the misery to which the French troops in Spain are often reduced, and said that he had suffered so much since his desertion, that he would willingly undergo any punishment, short of death, to be once more restored to his country. I listened to him with the more satisfaction, as he was overheard

heard by some of our soldiers, who had shewn symptoms of an intention of entering the French service.

We passed through a country, of which the soil is a deep clay, retaining the marks of cultivation though it now lays waste, and arrived at the miserable village of Allascas, which, as well as others in the neighbourhood, were more than half destroyed by the French. Here, there being no quarters whatever for our officers, they were obliged to take part of mine, which were very little better than a stable.

On the 1st of December, the convoy set out at day-light for Madrid, but my mules not being ready I walked on with the rear-guard, composed of a detachment of the 18th légère, a regiment I was well acquainted with, from its having been continually opposed to us in Egypt. On quitting the village I was witness to the cruel treatment of

a poor

a poor old Spaniard, whom the French soldiers not only robbed of the things he was carrying to market, but also beat most unmercifully. My own safety I perceived rendered silence prudent, for had I remonstrated, it was very probable these ruffians would have murdered me without hesitation. As my mules were still behind, I entered into conversation with a dragoon who led his horse, and who entertained me with the feats of arms he had achieved, particularly in the campaign of Portugal. He passed the highest eulogium on Massena, who he had no doubt would chase the English into the sea; a prophecy which has however turned out as false as that of his imperial master, on the same subject. In order to get rid of this fellow's tiresome babble, I quitted the road for the fields, where, putting up a hare and some partridges, my attention was entirely drawn to them, and the

the mules passed me on the road without my observing them. On returning to the road and not seeing them, I supposed they were still behind, and walked back nearly three miles to meet them, but not doing so I began to fear some accident, particularly as the people I met on the road had all the appearance of brigands. I therefore returned towards the convoy, and soon perceived my servant galloping towards me.

As we were now approaching Madrid, the General mounted his charger, and put on his full uniform, which is superb in the extreme, and consequently calculated to inspire respect in the soldiery, though the hat, edged with feathers, certainly too much resembled that of a drum-major, and reminded me of the anecdote of a cockney sportsman, who in the confusion of a first essay, seeing some feathers waving over a hedge,

instantly fired, and lo, shot off the head of a recruiting serjeant.

On our right was pointed out to us a ruined chapel, in which one of the General's aides-de-camp, with four other officers and sixty men, were attacked a few days before by the brigands, who set the chapel on fire and burnt every soul of the party. We rode to examine this ensanguined spot, in which were still seen the half consumed carcases of these victims of retaliation, who had been intercepted by a party of *Il Medico's* band on their return from Madrid, whither they had escorted a convoy. This sight seemed to shock the General and his officers, who could not help expressing their detestation of the barbarous manner of carrying on the war.

The General being excessively vain, both of his horse and horsemanship, in order to shew

shew them off, set out on a full gallop in the deepest part of the road; though on a miserable Spanish hack, I was determined to shew off too, and getting my beast into a prancing canter, I soon passed the General, who putting spurs to his horse, at the same time that he slacked the reins, and the animal being knee deep in mud, came down, as might be expected, and rolled over his rider. The aide-de-camp and some *chasseurs* immediately ran to his assistance, but the miserable pickle he was in, and his ludicrous grimaces, almost discomposed their gravity, and they could scarce refrain from laughing aloud at the bedaubed face and uniform of their General. Such is the force of national pride even in trifles, that while I pitied the General's plight, I congratulated myself on having proved my superior horsemanship, for the honour of Old England; and my satisfaction was increased by re-

flecting, that had the same accident happened to me, the whole detachment would have triumphed both at the expence of my country and myself.

A short halt was the consequence of the General's mishap, and when he was rubbed down tolerably clean, we proceeded towards Madrid over a flat, and well cultivated country, but with much fewer villages, or inhabitants, than might have been expected so near the metropolis; these few however were much superior in appearance to those we had hitherto met with.

CHAPTER XVI.

Madrid....French politeness....Adjutant de Place ....Traitors.... Affairs of Egypt ....Plaza del Sol et Mayor....Treatment of the prisoners.... French forgetfulness.

PREVIOUS to entering Madrid we crossed a superb bridge of several elliptical arches, with a beautiful marble balustrade surmounted by marble statues. The gate of Toledo, by which we entered, is also very handsome, and creates a favourable prepossession of the general elegance of the city. After riding through a great number of streets at full gallop, over a very slippery pavement, at the risk of breaking our necks, or being trampled to death if our horses came down, merely to gratify the absurd vanity of the French General, who

wished to create astonishment, we arrived at a wretched *posada*,* where I was immediately visited by Messrs. Boulard and Cassadevant, merchants of respectability, who informed me that they had received notice from Mr. Kilpatrick at Malaga to furnish me with money. General Lavoisier invited me to dine with him at General Beliard's; this honour I declined until I had presented my letters from General Sebastiani, which I did in the course of the day, and was received with great politeness, but was not a little surprised at learning, that by King Joseph's express order, I was to take up my quarters in the Retiro; to soften the harshness of which, however, the General said he would particularly recommend me to the commandant of that citadel.

I also delivered a letter from Monsieur Chevariere

* A public-house.

Chevariere to his father, who immediately offered me the use of his house, and of every thing in it; but when I only requested he would allow my horse to be put in his empty stable out of the rain, the difficulties were so numerous that I begged he would give himself no trouble about it. Being at a loss where to seek for a dinner, I asked the advice of Monsieur Cassadevant, who shewed me to a dirty house, kept by Messrs. Briere and Colignon, where I got some good soup and a cutlet, and not without difficulty a bottle of Val de Penes, the other wines being execrable.

At an early hour I repaired to my quarters in the Retiro, to pass a most uncomfortable night on a hard bed swarming with vermin, and in the morning (December 2) was called up soon after daylight by the Adjutant de Place, who informed me in a most dictatorial manner that I was to accompany him to

breakfast with General Beliard. While I was dressing he entered the room several times, exclaiming, " *allons donc, dépéchez-* " *vous, le Général vous attend.*" At length he so tired my patience, that I told him, " if he was to accompany me, he might " return to the General and inform him, I " preferred staying where I was to having " such an attendant," which sent him off grumbling. I however was following him, when to my great surprise the centinel at the gate stopped me, presenting his bayonet to my breast; I of course returned, and finding out the Adjutant enquired if it was by the General's orders, I was thus made a close prisoner, or if the centinel acted from his orders only? He replied, that the centinel received his orders from the officers of the guard, of whom I immediately demanded by what authority he acted, and found, that in fact, the orders originated with the Adjutant;

jutant; to this latter, I therefore stated, that the General having invited me to breakfast the evening before, could not be so inconsistent as to order my being prevented from accepting his invitation; that therefore I would again proceed, and if stopped would write to the General for an explanation. This savage I suppose finding that he would be likely to get into a scrape, walked with me to the gate, and with much *nonchalance* ordered the centinel to let me pass: I had not however walked many paces before I found him close by my side, and as I did not think it worth while to be angry with so insignificant a fellow, I entered into conversation with him. "*Apparemment, Monsieur est quelque temps Adjutant de Place.*"—"*Oui, parbleu, depuis le commencement.*"—"*Monsieur est entré donc avec l'armée lorsqu'elle a pris possession de la ville.*"—"*Oui, parbleu!*" He then told

told me, that he commanded a detachment of grenadiers; pointed out as we passed the beautiful gate d'Alcala, the principal point of attack at the angle of the Calle d'Alcala, and described the massacre of the inhabitants with such energetic marks of delight, that he seemed to fancy himself at the moment in the act of perpetrating the horrors he recounted. I could not refrain from ejaculating an involuntary sigh of pity for those who should ever be in the power of this wretch; and this feeling was not diminished by the recollection that I was myself at the moment thus situated. These melancholy reflections were however dissipated by the cheerful elegance of the Prado which we were crossing: the immense number of statues, the numerous fountains, pouring out streams of the purest water, the superb Calle d'Alcala, terminated by the Plaza de Sol, a perfect circus, with streets branch-

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ing from it like rays from the sun, all united to fix entirely the attention.

On my arrival at General Beliard's, I found several officers in the anti-room, and among them a Mr. Walsh, one of the General's aides-de-camp, who had formerly served in our 9th regiment of infantry. Though this person seemed to wish to be extremely civil to me, I met his advances with the greatest coolness; or rather with that contempt which every loyal man feels for the traitor to his country and king, when he considers the total dereliction of principle which must be the attendant of this species of crime; for even the wretch who hesitates not at robbing on the highway, feels for the glory of his country, and will resent the disrespectful mention of it as a personal insult; how low, therefore, must the man of family and education

tion be degraded, before he can join the standard of his country's enemies!

After some time the General made his appearance; his little round figure was enveloped in a uniform covered with lace and embroidery. We immediately sat down to an excellent breakfast, in company with Generals Lavoisier, Buchot, and other officers. The General knew I had served in Egypt, where indeed I had rendered his countrymen an essential service, on our taking possession of Grand Cairo; for being there attached to the Grand Vizier's army, in a detachment commanded by Colonel Stuart, it was only by our strongest exertions that we were able to prevent the Turks from massacreing all the French and their adherents that fell in their way. The conversation, in consequence of our mutual recognition, turned on the affairs

in

in Egypt after the French had quitted it; and on my relating the massacre of the Beys, the General observed that the evacuation of the country by the French was a real misfortune to its inhabitants, in which I could not help concurring. Indeed it would have been better, in the eye of humanity, had they remained, for the power of the Turks and Mamelukes being so equally balanced that neither of them can acquire a lasting superiority, the country suffers all the misery and desolation of an endless civil war.

The General informed me, on taking leave, that I was only to lodge in the Retiro until a *billet de logement* could be procured for me in better quarters.

In the course of the day I visited the Puerto del Sol, from which some of the principal streets of the city branch off, namely, the Calle de la Montera, de los Carrelas,

Carrelas, d'Alcala, Mayor, la Carrera de St. Jeronimo, &c. The Plaza del Sol is open and cheerful, with a superb fountain in the middle, and surrounded by lofty elegant buildings; from its central situation it is the principal promenade of the loungers of Madrid, and the rendezvous of the merchants. In the Plaza Mayor is the chief vegetable market; it is of an oval figure, three hundred and fifty to four hundred feet long, and three hundred wide; the houses are all of five stories, well built, and each has a portico of hewn stone, balconies, and an iron railing before the windows. The centre house on one side of the Plaza is called la Casa de la Panadeira, and was appropriated formerly to receive the royal family, during public spectacles of bull-fights, fireworks, &c. which were exhibited in this place. I entered the court of this building, which presented nothing but

but dirt and neglect, except that in its centre still remained a marble statue of Diana. This edifice was burnt down in 1672 and 1790, and after the last conflagration rebuilt with superior magnificence.

The greater number of the streets leading from the Plaza Mayor by no means correspond with it, being narrow, dirty, and generally ill built. There are, however, a few worthy of the metropolis of a great kingdom, particularly the Calle de Toledo, la Carrera de St. Jeronimo de Aptiocha, del Prado, Calle Mayor, and Calle d'Alcala, which latter is inferior to none in Europe, for width and elegant termination.

After having amused myself in this promenade I visited General Lavoisier, who invited me to dinner, and recapitulated his bill of fare, which was sumptuous; he also proposed a plan for spending the evenings,

ings, by first attending the theatre, and then visiting some ladies of his acquaintance, where we should find an elegant *petit souper*, which was too agreeable to my wishes not to be immediately acceded to.

The officers having represented the situation of the men as extremely bad, I enquired into the subject, and found several English and Maltese sailors confined with a considerable number of Germans in a small dungeon, where the air could not be renewed, and that the only provisions they received were black bread and water. I remonstrated with the Adjutant de Place on this treatment, which must inevitably send many of the prisoners to the hospital, if not to the grave; and received, as I expected, a surly and evasive answer: indeed there could not exist a more unfeeling brute, nor one whose manners and appearance more clearly indicated a proper instrument

strument for the perpetration of the most heinous acts. My remonstrances were, therefore, at this time in vain, nor could I even procure permission for the prisoners to visit the fresh air once a day under a guard.

At the dinner hour I repaired to General Lavoisier, feasting in imagination on the sumptuous repast he had announced to me; but was rather disappointed to find he had forgot to say he dined at home, and consequently that no dinner was prepared; I therefore, after writing him a note to tell him I had waited on him according to his invitation, ordered dinner at Briere and Collignon's, which, though it wanted all the good things I expected to find at the General's, had at least the comfort of not laying me under an obligation.

In the evening I received a visit from a

Monsieur Longeau, a French merchant, who offered me his services with great civility. Knowing, however, that we were perfect strangers, and particularly as people are seldom so polite without some sinister view, I was cautious in my conversation with this gentleman, and more particularly as his first subject was very suspicious, for he entered fully into the situation of the French at Madrid, as well as into the characters of Generals Beliard and Lavoisier, and, from the anecdotes he related of the latter, I found that I ought not to be surprised at his forgetting having invited me to dinner. I however related the circumstance, adding that I was rejoiced at the General's forgetfulness, as it had procured me the acquaintance *d'un homme d'esprit tel que monsieur ;* in return for which compliment he launched into an encomium on England and the English. Our conversation

tion next turned on the history of Spain, and I could not help losing sight for a moment of my prudential reserve, when I recollected the glorious epoch of Ferdinand and Isabella, and compared it with the present moment. The Frenchman abused the whole conduct of his government with such virulence, that my suspicions of him were increased, and I changed the conversation to the objects worthy of a stranger's notice in Madrid, with which he seemed to be well acquainted, and offered to accompany me in my perambulations, a civility which I accepted.

CHAPTER XVII.

Madrid....Museum.....Masonic meeting.... Situation of the prisoners....Spanish generosity....Prado....Puerta d'Alcala....Palace of Buonavista... Palace of the Duke of Medina Sidonia.

DURING the time I remained at Madrid, I amused myself with visiting the edifices most worthy of notice, and of which I shall endeavour to give my readers an idea, without attending to the particular days on which I saw them. My first visit was to the Cabinet of Natural History, whither I was accompanied by Monsieur Longeau, who proved an excellent Cicerone. The apartments of this building, which is situated in the Calle d'Alcala, are by no means prepossessing; but I found the objects they contained well worthy of attention: indeed,

indeed, no country has had greater facilities of forming a collection of this nature than Spain, from her vast foreign possessions. I shall, however, confine myself to mentioning those which are esteemed the most rare and valuable.

1. A specimen of christal, named *Pietras figuratos espata calcareo*, which doubles the images presented to it. It came from Biscay.

2. An extensive and fine collection of Spanish marbles, the most beautiful of which are from Loja and Xenil.

3. Some specimens of rich silver ore from the mines of Almeria.

4. A lump of virgin gold, as taken out of the mine, weighing 16 lb. 8 oz.

5. A lump of virgin silver, weighing 265 lb. 3 oz.

6. Several specimens of christalized antimony, sulphur, iron, &c.

 7. Several

7. Several agates and other stones.

8. A large collection of sponges.

9. A human skull, with a pair of horns sprouting from it. On enquiry, I found it belonged to a Spaniard, but could not learn whether he was married or not!

10. Many specimens of petrified woods.

11. A mummy, very perfect.

12. A Mexican about to be pounded to death in a mortar.

13. A beautiful striped eagle, called the Imperial.

In the second apartment I noticed,

1. The skeleton of an animal, exceeding the mammoth in bulk, whose teeth denote it to have been carnivorous; but its family is unknown. Found in the Rio de la Plata.

2. Some Egyptian figures, taken in the Flora frigate.

3. The bark of some curious trees.

4. Several

4. Several ornaments of teeth worn round the body and head.

5. The representation of some Spanish arms in shell work.

In the third apartment:

1. A dinner and desert service in jasper, onyx, and agate, said to be four hundred years older than the Christian era.

2. A singularly shaped beautiful shell, for which we were told that nine millions of reals had been offered.

3. Several topaz cups and a bowl of lapis lazuli.

4. A black topaz.

5. A service of plate, presented by Louis XIV.

6. The Conquest of Mexico in Mosaic.

7. A dress of the Emperor of China.

8. Some American paintings.

The fourth apartment, named the Salle de la Junto, chiefly contains pictures, of

which several are very valuable, particularly

A group of Bacchanals, by Reubens.

A St. Jeronimo, by Murillo.

A Virgin, copied from Raphael.

A Woman and Child, by Murillo, peculiarly fine.

A Transfiguration, by Raphael.

An Assumption, by Cespedes.

An Ave, by Raphael.

In the fifth apartment are some well executed bronze figures.

A Venus, by Titian.

A Model of the Ruins of Saguntum.

Statues of Achilles and Patrocles.

A Statue of Venus.

The Battle of the Horatii and Curiatii, in relief.

Having detained my companion a whole day in taking only a cursory view of this museum, I invited him to dine with me at

Briere

Briere and Colignon's, and was entertained by his volubility; though it was with him, as with most of his countrymen, *vox et pretærea nihil.*—After dinner I received a visit from an officer of the 26th Chasseurs à Cheval, to request my company at a masonic meeting. The forms of admission were very serious; but I went through them sufficiently well, and received a warm welcome from the brethren, particularly from Colonel Vial, commanding the 26th Chasseurs, who was master of the lodge, and who invited me to supper and to dinner the next day. At supper, when the punch began to mount, each played some ridiculous trick to divert the company; one making hideous grimaces, another taking off a priest in his robe, by means of a towel on his fingers; a third shaped mice out of the parings of apples, &c. &c. Indeed, I must do the French the justice to acknowledge that

that they far excel us in the art of making fools of themselves *pour passer le temps.*

On rising one morning I learnt, as I had foretold, that several of the prisoners had been obliged to be sent to the hospital, and that some serious quarrels had taken place between the English and Germans; finding also that the only provision yet supplied them was bread and water, I made enquiry whether the Government really allowed nothing more, and found that it contracted for half a pound of meat per man *per diem*, and consequently that there was a gross imposition somewhere. I therefore again addressed myself to the Adjutant de Place, who, as usual, fell into a passion, and endeavoured to bully me into silence; but finding me determined not to remain a tame spectator of the cruel and fraudulent treatment of those, for whom both duty and humanity called upon me to interfere, his passion knew

knew no bounds, and he was about to draw his sword on me, though unarmed and a prisoner, when I told him that I had but one life to lose, and that I would cheerfully lay it down for the satisfaction of chastising such a ruffian, and procuring justice for my countrymen and fellow sufferers; that if he attempted to draw his sword, he should mark the consequence; and that at all events I would write to General Beliard on the subject of the prisoners, for I was well assured that it was with his (the Adjutant's) connivance that they were thus shamefully cheated of their provisions. This I immediately did, and meat was in consequence afterwards issued.

The condition of the prisoners while their allowance was thus withheld, would have been truly deplorable, had not the Spanish inhabitants generously assisted them; and it was not uncommon to see women of respectability

spectability conveying to them not only victuals but clothes, though they were repeatedly repulsed by the guards, who were also sometimes softened by the charms of the females employed in these acts of humanity. As I had gained my point in the article of meat, I thought it better to drop all appearance of animosity towards the Adjutant; and one day, when a beautiful girl solicited permission to deliver some victuals to the prisoners in his presence, and was refused, I addressed him with "*Monsieur est François?*"— to which he replied, "*Parbleu, oui!*"— I then continued, "formerly the French "were conspicuous above all the nations "of the world for their gallantry and com- "plaisance towards the fair sex, and I "cannot conceive it possible that so great "a change has taken place in their man- "ners, that a Frenchman can deny the "request of a charming girl, to be per-

"mitted

" mitted to do a benevolent action, in suc-
" couring the distrest prisoner!" This address had the desired effect in softening the Adjutant, who admitted not only the girl in question, but several others, to converse with the prisoners, and bring them provisions, shirts, and other necessaries.

While at dinner one day with Colonel Vial, I was waited on by a Monsieur Guillet, who, with a profusion of compliments, imformed me that he had prepared apartments for me in his house, concluding in the usual style of French sincerity, " *dis-*
" *posez de moi en tout ce que pouvez vous*
" *faire plaisir.*" On enquiring into the character of this person, I found it was not one of the best; but being aware that the French, as well as the Irish, abuse each other without cause, I paid little attention to the report; besides I had no alternative but to remain uncomfortable at the Retiro, or to

accept

accept his offer; and though I strongly suspected that he was intended to be placed as a spy over me, I prepared to take up my quarters in his house; besides, I learnt that he was a connoisseur in paintings, and received a salary from King Joseph, to collect the most valuable pictures. I therefore hoped to receive much information from him on this subject; and on my making my wishes known to him, he offered to accompany me the following day to view the best collections.

In our way to the palace, we crossed the Prado, which I have already mentioned as probably the most superb promenade in the world, and being almost the only one at Madrid, it is crowded with people, whose dresses and equipages cannot fail to amuse the stranger. In both respects the Spaniards are at least a century behind the English or French. Here we see a coach-

man

man with a bag wig, a livery covered with gold lace, and an enormous cocked hat, all appearing to have served several generations, awkardly driving at a snail's pace, a pair of mules in harness of crimson velvet, covered with a profusion of gilt buckles and plates, their manes platted with various coloured ribbands, falling in large bowknots, and attached to a heavy carriage, carved and gilded all over, through the glasses of which is seen an ancient Grandee, in full dress; but while admiring his serious air, you are roused from your reverie by the rattle of wheels, and on turning, observe a modern Hidalgo, or *parvenu*, of French fabric, galloping over the pavement in a light carriage, drawn by six or seven mules, and with several running footmen or outriders, in the most tawdry and ridiculous liveries. The pedestrians form a no less strange contrast in the mixture of French officers, Spanish

Spanish merchants and citizens, all laughing at each other's costume, and each unconscious of what is ridiculous in his own; for it is plainly perceptible that the toilette has occupied the minds of all in the preparation for exhibition on the Prado.

The Prado commences at the ancient convent of Antiocha, at this time converted into an hospital, and extends to the Calle d'Alcala, at the entrance of which is a magnificent fountain, representing the goddess Cybèle in the centre of a white marble bason, and in a chariot drawn by lions; she holds in her hand a key, the emblem of her attributes, as the goddess of cities and garrisons. The whole is in white marble inimitably executed.

The only fault in the Calle d'Alcala is a small bend, which considerably injures the effect that would be produced if it was perfectly straight. The Puerta d'Alcala, which

which terminates it, consists of three superb arches, of which the middle is considerably the largest, being about thirty feet high and fourteen broad. The gates are iron richly worked, and the pillars white marble of the Ionic order. Besides the three great arches, destined for carriages and horsemen, on the east side is a lesser one for pedestrians. The total elevation of the gate is sixty feet, and the architrave is ornamented with lions' heads, &c.

Towards the end of the Calle d'Alcala is a fountain, representing Neptune and his queen, whom the god embraces round the waist; they are standing in a scallop shell, drawn by Hippopotami and attended by Nereids. A marble bason receives the water. This street contains also several other pieces of sculpture, and on one side of it is a botanic garden founded by Charles the Third, where a course of lectures are

given *gratis*. On the right in ascending the street is an unfinished palace, named Buonavista, built by the Prince of Peace; it is very extensive, but not free from faults, particularly in the windows, which are out of all proportion small. It however boasts a good collection of pictures by Murillo, Reubens, Bayeu, Velasquez, &c. amongst which the Marriage of the Adriatic, a pug dog by Velasquez, and a Virgin by Murillo, are peculiarly excellent. In one of the apartments is a bronze statue of Charles the Fifth, which takes to pieces; and it would seem that turning is a favourite amusement of princes, for in another room is a lathe, and all the implements employed in that art. This palace has been several times on fire, and indeed accidents of this nature are surprisingly common throughout Spain, where the houses have not one-third of the timber

timber employed in those of England and France. The principal apartments of this building were now filled with corn and wool.

The palace of the Duke of Medina Sidonia occupies a considerable portion of the Calle d'Alcala, and has one of its fronts towards the Prado; after having been compleatly plundered, it was taken possession of by Monsieur Denio, Commissary General of the French army. The Duke on the entry of the French fled so precipitately, that he did not carry off even his diamonds, which fell into the hands of the invaders.

After viewing these buildings I dined with my officers at the Fonda St. Martin, which, though it has a high reputation, I found wretched enough; indeed the *traiteurs* in Spain at this time labour under one great *désagrément*, which renders them

little anxious to please, for the great majority of their guests being French officers, who often in their hurry forget to settle their bills, those who have more correct memories are obliged, not only to make up the *deficit*, but also suffer in the quality and manner of their entertainment. A party of French officers was this day dining at an adjoining table, most of whom retired after a very short repast. Amongst the few who remained was a respectable looking elderly man, with whom I entered into conversation, and found him a pleasant and well informed person, very different from those who had withdrawn, whose conversation turned solely on their achievements in love and war. One of those braggadocios had seated himself at our table, and attempted to join in conversation, but I suppose being *ennuyé* with English taciturnity, he soon left us and returned to his

his own table, where, to shew his spite, he wantonly broke several plates and glasses. In this frolic I encouraged him, from the pleasure, malicious I allow, of his increasing his bill under the article of breakages.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Madrid....French over-civility .... Retiro .... Prisoners' rencontre....Theatre.

HAVING shifted my quarters to the house of Mr. Guillet, I accepted his invitation to dinner; but though it was good in itself, so annoying was the super-attention of my host and hostess, that I determined not to be a second time surfeited by it, and to avoid all eclaircissement I removed my things secretly back to the Retiro, preferring even a prison to the abominable tiresomeness of the civility with which these people overwhelmed me. Their ideas of politeness led them to think they ought not to leave me a moment alone; consequently I was tormented to death with their insipid company. While at dinner, because

because I could not eat like a ploughman, the lady every instant hoped I was not indisposed, or feared that there was nothing to my liking. Perhaps I carry my dislike of ceremonious manners further than is strictly just, for nothing can annoy me more than wishing me a formal good morning at the end of a visit, or pressing me to sit down at its commencement.

The Retiro, which I thus preferred to my new quarters, and which was now full of prisoners, consists of a large square with a smaller one on the left, and one side of another on the right. The buildings are very irregular, and without ornaments. When the occasional residence of the Spanish monarchs, there was a theatre in the centre of the great court, which was now demolishing to employ the materials somewhere else. The menagerie is an octagon, with pens round it for the animals,

and a gallery above, from which they could be looked down upon with safety; the only beast now remaining was a bear, blind with old age. The gardens, as well as the buildings, were entirely neglected: the *jets d'eau* no longer acted, and the basins, which were filled by engines, the scite of the Retiro being higher than the town, were entirely empty. The gardens were strewed with fragments of sculpture and mutilated statues; that of Narcissus alone remaining perfect, because it was out of the immediate reach of the destroyers. In short, the whole edifice presented the appearance of the devastations of the Goths and Vandals, rather than the visit of the encouragers and protectors of the arts, as the French stile themselves.

In one of the squares however still remained an equestrian statue of Philip the Second, in bronze, weighing 18,000 lb. and

and which is fixed in the pedestal by the hind legs of the horse only. There are also a few other statues entire, particularly that of Charles the First, with a laurel wreath; and in a small apartment, with marble columns, those of Philip the Second and Mary Queen of Hungary. In a small separate garden are also those of Ferdinand and Isabella. This palace had formerly one of the best collections of pictures to be found in Europe, containing several *chefs d'œuvre* of Reubens, Titian, Poussin, Jordan, Ricci, Zarborea, Carte, and other masters; all of which have been removed. Several royal manufactures were established within the walls, particularly of tapestry and porcelain, which were established by Charles the Third, but have declined since his death, and have now entirely ceased. In fact, the only manufactures that Madrid still possesses to employ its numerous population,

are

are some very insignificant ones, of coarse woollens, hats and paper.

As I found the English prisoners were suffering much from the inclemency of the weather and the want of warm clothing, I directed each man to be supplied with a pair of woollen pantaloons, a shirt and pair of stockings. For the two first articles I procured the cloth and gave it the men to make for themselves, so that in the course of a day or two I had the satisfaction of seeing the poor fellows comparatively comfortable; and in doing this, it certainly cost me nothing but a little personal trouble, as I drew bills for the amount on account of the soldiers arrears. When it is thus easy to relieve the wants of the distressed, he must be entirely destitute of humanity who neglects doing so.

Several Spanish officers were confined in the Retiro, and were supplied by their countrywomen

countrywomen with provisions and clothes; for I had occasion to observe, that whatever part the husbands take, the females adhere to the loyal side, and consider those who suffer in the cause as martyrs for their religion and their country. Besides the Spanish prisoners taken in arms, several persons of respectability were also confined in the same prison, because they could not or would not pay the heavy contributions demanded by the French. With these I often entered into conversation, and found them animated by the most inveterate hatred of their invaders, and with the perfect confidence that they would ultimately not only be driven out of the country, but that a Spanish and English army would cross the Pyrennees, and retaliate in the heart of France the miseries they were suffering.

Learning that Mr. Coosfeld, one of the partners of Hope's house at Amsterdam, and

and whom I had formerly known, was at Madrid, I called on him. He was not a little surprised at finding me a prisoner in the capital of Spain; but for my own part, I have had so many extraordinary and unexpected rencounters in the course of my life, that nothing of this kind seems strange to me, and I felt more pleasure than surprise at this meeting. Mr. C. told me that his business at Madrid was to endeavour to recover large sums of money lent by his house to the late government; and I have since learnt, what indeed was only to have been expected, that his mission was entirely unsuccessful.

In the evening of the same day, after having dined with some French officers, I accompanied them to the theatre, called Canons del Peral, and found both the house and performance equally wretched; the former being inconvenient, filthy and ill lighted,

lighted, and the latter a miserable attempt at opera, which was barbarously murdered. The French, who swallow their dinner in a moment and content themselves with a few glasses of common wine while eating, find in the playhouse, however bad it may be, a resource against the *ennui* of a long and idle evening.

There were formerly two other theatres at Madrid, but both were now shut. Indeed, since the death of Ferdinard the Sixth, the Spanish theatre is said to have declined, and the French invasion has reduced it still lower. The performers' emoluments are in Spain, as well as in Italy and Portugal, very trifling; but the favourite singers and musicians used formerly to derive considerable revenues from the nobility, who though totally ignorant of every thing that, according to our ideas, constitutes comfort, and though

they

they deny themselves almost the necessaries of life, hesitate not to give a hundred, or a hundred and fifty guineas to a celebrated performer for a night's private entertainment in music or singing.

Being informed one morning that in the preceding night a fray had taken place between the English and German prisoners, I on enquiry found it had originated with an English sailor, who being a powerful bruiser, thought proper to have a round with some of the foreigners, and a gigantic serjeant, who was the bully of the prison, seeming a proper subject, he attacked him *secundum artem*, and soon demolished him: then taking out two others, he gave them such desperate beatings, that they were obliged to be sent to the hospital, and the tar was acknowledged by all sides to be the best man. The foreigners however not relishing this

British

British amusement, requested and obtained a separation; and I at the same time procured permission for one in ten of our men to go out and wash the clothes of the rest, this necessary indulgence having been hitherto denied them.

CHAPTER XIX.

Madrid.....Palace....English officers' neglect of their servants....Bull-fight.

HAVING obtained permission to visit the palace while the King was abroad, I went thither one afternoon, accompanied by some French gentlemen, and found a great number of workmen demolishing and clearing away a convent and several houses, which pressed so close on the front of the palace as considerably to injure its effect. The guards on duty were all Spaniards, with rich blue uniforms, cocked hats, and very large red feathers. Fine feathers, it is said, make fine birds; but notwithstanding the richness of their dress, and all the arts used to attach them, I believe there are but

but very few Spaniards in the French service friends in their hearts to the invaders.

This palace was built in the eleventh century, and was scarcely finished when it was taken by assault and plundered by the Moors. It was also nearly destroyed by an earthquake in the reign of Peter the Cruel, and rebuilt by his successor, Henry II. After being greatly improved and richly decorated by Charles the First, Philip II. and their successors, it was reduced to ashes in 1734, and rebuilt by Philip V. and Ferdinand VI. The shape of the edifice is rather an oblong square, the two longest sides being about four hundred feet, and the others somewhat less; the elevation I suppose to be about eighty to ninety feet. The first view of the exterior conveys an idea of magnificence, but on approaching, the smallness of the windows greatly diminishes this idea, and the filthy state of

the courts, &c. entirely destroys it. On entering, the staircase is immediately observed to be much too small; it is, however, supported by fine marble pillars of the composite order, but which the Goths have most unaccountably whitewashed, so that without a close inspection, they appear no better than common stone. The interior of the building compensates for the external faults, being excelled by no palace in Europe in splendour and elegance. The first apartment we entered is small, but handsome, with some good pictures by Reubens and Jordan, particularly a Sabine Queen visiting the Temple, the Judgment of Solomon, and Dalilah cutting Samson's hair, by the latter artist; a Magdalene by Spagnoletto, and a Spanish evening, are also very fine. This apartment and some others adjoining were occupied by the Princesses, and thence are called the Princesses' apartments. Those

Those of the Queen, which we next entered, are on a much grander scale, extending the whole length of the palace, and communicating with each other, so that when the folding doors are thrown open, the eye is almost dazzled by the splendid elegance of a long suite of magnificent saloons. In the centre of the first apartment is a superb golden brasiero,* a table of elegant workmanship, and a very handsome service of Seve porcelain; besides several good pictures, particularly a Centurion, by Tintoretti.

In the centre of the reception room is a fine marble table, and the ceiling is elegantly painted by Francisco Baliega. In this apartment is also a good Centurion, by

* A golden brasier may seem bordering on a bull; but these kind of stoves are named brasiero, of whatever metal they may be composed."

Paul Veronese, and St. George and the Dragon, by Reubens, remarkable for colouring and effect. From the windows is a delightful view of the Guadarama mountains, the Casa del Campo, and the Escurial, with the river Manganaris running beneath.

The third apartment contains some old china and other handsome ornaments; the ceiling painted in an elegant and chaste style by Baliego, and the four Phases of the Moon by Mengs. In each apartment is a very rich clock; that in the fourth is peculiarly superb, representing Atlas supporting the world. In this room is a good picture of Philip II. by Titian, and the Family of Philip IV. by Velasquez. The ceiling is painted by Baliego, and represents the taking of Grenada from the Moors. It has likewise two superb vases of Seve porcelain, and several highly ornamented tables. In short, every thing is so magnificent, as to shut

shut out all idea of comfort: the eye is dazzled, the mind struck with admiration, but neither is pleased. For my own part, the reflection I made was, how miserable I should be if forced to inhabit these superb apartments! for I am so unambitious as to prefer a well polished snug mahogany table, a good fire, and the society of a few friends, to grandeur accompanied by ceremony and formality, which must have been always the case here; as none ever entered these apartments but in full dress, and with a feeling of their own inferiority.

The ceiling of the fifth *salon* represents Columbus presenting the new world to Ferdinand and Isabella, with its treasures and uncommon productions. In this apartment are also the celebrated pictures of the Virgin de la Pinto, and the Madona del Pace, by Raphael, some ceiling figures by Mengs, and some beautiful china. The

porcelain *salon* contains various handsome articles of that kind, together with a steel clock on a fine pedestal; and the ceiling, painted by Mengs, represents the Triumph of Religion. Adjoining this apartment is a small elegantly fitted up library, the books of which are so superbly bound, and so nicely arranged, that one is almost afraid to touch them. On the left of the library is a small apartment with a white marble bath; two sides of this room are lined with looking glasses of a single piece, and the ceiling is finely painted. In a cabinet, communicating with it, is a bed to repose on after bathing.

The dinner room, which looks towards the west, contains some valuable paintings by Jordan, but a portrait of Buonaparte by David by no means corresponds with the celebrity of that artist. The ceiling is well painted, and in the room are some rich mosaic tables.

The

The succeeding apartment has several pictures by Reubens, particularly a St. Andrew much admired; the ceiling represents the death of Hercules, by Velasquez. In another spacious apartment is a handsome large musical clock, and several pictures by Reubens and Titian, of which the finest are an Adam and Eve by each of these masters, which are placed on either side of a window, and both so exquisite that it is impossible to give either a preference; the other most valuable pictures are the discovery of the purple dye by the Phenician and his dog, and a Titus and Syriphus, both by Titian; the ceiling is painted by Mengs.

The apartment containing the throne is magnificent; the ceiling represents the costume of the different provinces of Spain, finely painted by a young Italian artist, named Philip Keholo, previously scarcely

known, and the walls are covered with the largest plate-glasses in the world. On each side of the throne is a very large gilt figure of a lion. This apartment also contains some bronze figures from Rome, and a bronze statue of Philip the Second, much admired. In the blue room are pictures of this same prince and of Philip the Fourth by Velasquez, of Charles the Fifth by Titian, and of Fernandez, his father, by Reubens, besides ten others by Titian, and one by Reubens; also some antique vases, a handsome clock, and a lion in bronze, greatly admired for the expression of the eyes.

I have already observed, that in my visit to the palace I was accompanied by some French gentlemen. Amongst them was a Monsieur Demoland, a fat and consequential personage, who had amassed £150,000 by privateering against the English, chiefly from

from St. Sebastian. He was attended by a most curious fellow, an Irishman, who had been once at sea, and was afterwards servant to an English dragoon officer, who when made prisoner left him to shift for himself. This reprehensible neglect respecting their servants is indeed by far too common amongst our officers, and has been the cause of many good soldiers being lost to the service and the country; for being thus left without succour to enable them to go comfortably to a depot, where they would be found on an exchange, they enter into the service of the first Frenchman that will hire them.

The morning after my visit to the palace, I accompanied Colonel Vial and some other French officers to the village of Lyanos, about two leagues from Madrid, whither we were escorted by a detachment of the Colonel's chasseurs. From hence we hastened back to be present at a bull-fight, which

which is certainly the most entertaining spectacle that Spain offers to a stranger. The amphitheatre, which might hold one thousand persons, was filled by well drest people, waiting in a kind of awful suspense for the appearance of the animal, while a band of music played a slow and solemn tune. When every thing was ready, a man magnificently drest came forward, and after sounding a trumpet addressed the Corregidor. Then appeared two cavaliers named *piccadores,* one drest in a jacket of white sattin and green pantaloons, and the other in a purple jacket and blue pantaloons, the sleeves of the jackets notched with crimson and gold, and the pantaloons covered with gold lace; their half-boots were of morocco, with immense gold tassels, and round their broad brimmed white hats was a gold band. They were, however, miserably mounted, for a bull sometimes killing fifteen

teen or twenty horses, it would be expensive to bring forward good ones; and besides they are so sumptuously caparisoned, that their defects are scarcely visible. The piccadore is armed with a lance, and when the bull has been goaded to fury outside of the arena, a door is opened and he rushes forward, his tail in the air, and instantly attacks one of the piccadores, who receives him on his lance. The sensation I felt at this moment is not to be described, but it partook both of delight and apprehension. The bull soon killed one of the horses, and the piccadore not being able to extricate himself readily, a *bandarilla* or footman came to his assistance, and presenting a handkerchief to the animal, amused him with it, turning on one side as the bull charged him, until the second piccadore came forward and attacked him; the dexterity of the men, as well as the exertions

of

of the bull, are loudly applauded by the spectators, who make the amphitheatre re-echo with their acclamations. When this part of the entertainment had lasted some time, two bandarillas came forward, each with a dart, to which are attached pieces of coloured paper and a handkerchief: the animal charges the handkerchief, which gives way, and the bandarilla pricks him with the dart until he becomes perfectly furious; at other times they drive him mad with crackers and fireworks. When King Joseph, who was present, thought that this second act had lasted long enough, he ordered the *matadore* to appear, who accordingly came forward on foot, richly drest, and armed with a small sword only; the bull instantly rushed on him, and was received on the point of the sword, which entered the spine at the back of the neck, and the animal dropped lifeless at the feet

of

of the triumphant matadore, who held up the reeking sword, and received the loudest applause from the spectators: and certainly his courage and dexterity were equally great, for had he missed the vital spot, which is not larger than a sixpence, his life would most probably have paid the forfeit of his awkwardness. The matadore is however stimulated, by the knowledge that his courage and success will gain him the plaudits of the fair sex, who contend for the preference in his good graces.

A second bull was dispatched in the same manner, but not until he had killed two horses, one of whom supported a second charge with his bowels trailing on the ground. Several other bulls were afterwards brought forward, but with their horns muffled, and a number of amateurs entered the lists with them, and shewed their dexterity by receiving them on their

hander-

handkerchiefs. Certainly there is no spectacle in Spain so well worth seeing as a good bull-fight. The pleasure derived from it must, however, be allowed to be at the expence of humanity, for men, as well as horses and bulls, often lose their lives in this sport. These fights had been discontinued for some years, but on the arrival of the French were permitted to be renewed. The summer and autumn are the most common seasons for these spectacles, particularly the latter, when the bulls are more fierce; they seldom take place in winter, and the present one was in consequence of the feast of Christmas.

CHAPTER XX.

Madrid....Excursion to Lyanos.....Coursing.... The broach....Made a close prisoner in the Retiro ....Transactions there....Give lectures on the veterinary art.

Some days after the bull-fight I accompanied the Colonel of the 26th chasseurs and some of his officers on a coursing party to Lyanos. The Colonel had the politeness to mount me on an English mare, taken at Talavera; and after partaking of a sumptuous breakfast, prepared for us at Lyanos, we set out, escorted by a strong body of dragoons and Polish lancers. We found hares extremely numerous, and having sixteen greyhounds all let loose at once, and some of whom run by the nose, it was to be expected

expected that we should do much execution; however, by taking advantage of several spots of brushwood and fern, most of the hares escaped, and we killed only four out of fourteen courses. As there were some fears that the brigands or peasants might attempt to carry me off, a curious fellow, of the name of Oliver, with a number of dragoons, were ordered to protect me; but though they used every endeavour to keep close to me, as I happened to be better mounted, and, I may add without much vanity, a better horseman, I frequently left them far behind, and made them blow several of their horses. This Oliver was quite a mountebank, and the butt of the Colonel, whom he amused with his grimaces and buffoonery; and indeed, in most French regiments there is a person of this description, on whom the officers expend their gross witticisms. Oliver was notwithstanding

standing a good soldier, who had risen from the ranks, but had no pretensions to gentility. He entertained me with an account of his being encamped at Boulogne, and employed in patrolling the coast to prevent smuggling; yet he candidly acknowledged that he was not always incorruptible, and that the smugglers often found the means of engaging him to alter his intended patrole. Thus, a smuggler asking him in what quarter he intended going his rounds, if he answered to the south, the other replied, that the north was by far the most pleasant, and accompanying his advice with a douceur, the business was decided.

On our return from coursing, we found an abundant dinner prepared, at which presided two ladies, one of whom was the *bonne amie* of the Colonel. The evening passed so pleasantly with music, singing,

and plentiful libations of punch, that before we recollected we had to return to Madrid, it was past the hour of shutting the gates, and we were therefore obliged to remain. As no beds could be procured, cards were called for, and we spent the night at Bouillot. I played with various success, but was latterly a considerable loser, when one lucky hit brought me nearly home. We left off at six o'clock, and after refreshing myself by washing my face, I played a few games of billiards, but was unsuccessful, from too soon exposing my play. My loss in cash I regretted much less than that of a gold broach, representing a pointer dog, finely executed. These kind of trinkets were so uncommon among the French and Spaniards, that all the company mistook it for an order, and made many enquiries respecting it. I did not think proper to undeceive them, and they

were

were ashamed to be too inquisitive, lest they should expose their ignorance on a subject, with which their *amour-propre* led them to conceive they should be acquainted. The broach was in my shirt on sitting down to dinner; but one of the ladies amusing herself with an innocent game of romps, it disappeared!

An inspector of review being expected to examine some horses, the Colonel was obliged to wait his arrival; and as I could not return to Madrid without an escort, I was also obliged to wait till the review was over, which was not till three o'clock, when after a *déjeûné à la fourchette*, we set out, and reached Madrid late in the evening. On my return to the Retiro, I found that our absence had given rise to several stories, some asserting that the party was cut to pieces, and that I was carried off by the brigands, while others were as confident

that I had deserted. King Joseph being informed of our absence, a search was ordered to be made in every direction. Had I had the most distant idea of the consequences, I should certainly have returned the same night; but the fact was, I was so well amused, that neither King Joseph, General Beliard, the commandant of the Retiro, or my being a prisoner, ever once entered my head. A certain *insouciance* of character is occasionally a blessing, for it not only prevents us from poisoning our pleasures, by anticipating evils, but it also enables us to support them when they arrive; and had I not possessed a portion of this happy indifference, I should probably have sunk under the various difficulties I at times have had to encounter.

The morning after my return, the Adjutant de Place called on me with the information that King Joseph had ordered me

to

to be closely confined. As I had no doubt but that this order originated with the General himself, I wrote him an explanatory letter on the subject of my last day's absence. I soon however discovered, that had I not stirred from Madrid, I should have been equally made a close prisoner, from the apprehensions entertained of an insurrection of the inhabitants, in which it appeared that I was denounced as intending to take an active part. Five centinels were at first placed over me, and two more were afterwards added. During the day I received several visits from my friends in the city, and found that I had acquired their esteem; probably from never talking seriously, but confining myself to chit chat, or *bagatelle*, when in French society. The officers confined with me, namely, Captain Annesley, Lieutenant Sheetry, and Ensigns Watts and Moulson, all of the 89th, were

 entirely

entirely disposed to cheerfulness: my confinement therefore was not so disagreeable as it would otherwise have been; and, indeed, I determined on appearing perfectly indifferent on the subject, not to give my enemies the satisfaction of believing they could annoy me.

Happening to have with me *White's Veterinary*, and knowing the French and Spanish ignorance of the treatment of horses, I, in order to amuse myself, proposed giving lectures on the subject, and treating the horses of my friends *gratis*. This was no sooner known, than sick and lame horses came from all quarters. The first I took in hand was an English mare of Monsieur de Billi, who had received a severe blow in the eye, and was pronounced incurable. By frequent steeping I succeeded in reducing the inflammation; I then applied finely pounded sugar, and lastly, Goulard's

extract

extract of Saturn, made weak, which produced a perfect cure. The horse of a general officer was next brought me, which I was told the General highly esteemed, and had tried every thing to restore. The animal had not been able to put one of his feet to the ground for nine months. I immediately perceived that he had picked up a nail, which produced a great inflammation and suppuration. Taking the horse's foot between my legs, (which surprised the attendants, as in France and Spain one man holds up the leg while another puts on the shoe, or performs any other operation*) I pared down the foot near the heel with a penknife, and soon perceived a small stump of a nail; on extracting which, a considerable discharge took place, and on letting

 down

In the Low Countries, the horse's foot is raised by an iron chain.

down the foot, the animal walked with great firmness, to the great astonishment of the spectators, who could not be persuaded but that I had acted by some charm. My fame as a horse doctor was now spread throughout Madrid, and I had so much practice, that had I taken fees, I should have made a handsome livelihood. In consequence of this, I was allowed to go to the stables and the forge, both within the walls. I had often in foreign countries, as well as when hunting, experienced the inconvenience of not being able to make and put on a horse-shoe, I therefore at once applied seriously, and soon made myself expert in the business. My particular friends now considered it as the highest favour to have a horse shod by me, and shewed him about in all directions, with no small vanity; for although I might not be considered as a first-rate blacksmith in England,

England, both my shoes and shoeing were infinitely superior to those of the Spaniards.

During the course of the French revolution, I frequently reflected in what manner I could gain a livelihood if my country was in similar circumstances, and felt a certain confidence in my knowledge of the treatment of horses. In another respect I was also at ease, that was in Cookery; having often found the necessity of being my own cook while on campaigns, or grousing parties, I learnt to excel particularly in the dressing of four dishes. Indeed I cooked my own dinner almost the entire journey from Grenada to Madrid; for being allowed six rations of meat and bread, with a proportion of wine per day, I usually prepared dinner at my quarters, which afforded me an opportunity of inviting the officers of the 89th. As I was also allowed barley and chopped straw for the mules, the only articles

ticles I had to purchase were a few onions and other vegetables; and in fact there was seldom any thing else to be bought, so that my whole expences from Grenada to Madrid, for living and fareing very well, did not exceed twelve francs, though the distance is above three hundred miles.

In spite of my resolution to appear indifferent, I soon found the want of liberty become insupportable, and more particularly so as I was under the charge of a brutish lieutenant of the 43d infantry, who, conceiving I had treated him with contempt, placed two additional centinels over me, and greatly diminished the limits I had been allowed to walk in. The conduct of this fellow was indeed as illiberal as that of the lowest ruffian, but had no other effect on my treatment of him, than causing me to express the most sovereign contempt both for his mind and person. The sarcasms I threw

out

out on the latter in particular, made him furious; for though a deformed little monster, he had the highest opinion of his personal beauty. In this respect, nature occasionally compensates her stinginess, by giving to such kind of animals a more than common share of conceit and vanity.

Among my visitors were some Spanish ladies, who sung and played, so that with the assistance of my male friends, I was enabled to produce an occasional and tolerable concert. Before I was thus closely confined, I used to attend concerts at Monsieur Denia's three or four times a week, where there were always assembled some first rate performers; particularly Monsieur Garnier, who is ranked among the first hautboys in Europe. At Monsieur Crochard's, who was an excellent violin, we used also to have some pleasant dinner parties and evening concerts.

December

December 25. In spite of all my attempts to render captivity less galling, the time passed on but heavily, and I had abundant proof that nothing can compensate the loss of liberty, wanting which, "even virtue mourns and looks round for happiness in vain." At length Christmas day arrived, and as I am one of those old fashioned persons, who think that the good old customs of our forefathers are not "better kept in the breach than in the observance," I invited some of my friends, among whom were General Briott and Messrs. Cavallos and Hervot, to dinner, which they accepted. Our repast was tolerably good, but most exorbitantly dear; the French *traiteur* (residing in the Retiro) who furnished it, doubtless thinking he had a right to make me pay doubly, for the double title by which he addressed me, of *My Lord Général Anglois.* I had however some reason

reason to suppose, that the Adjutant de Place shared in his profits, from his always highly praising him. This officer latterly became good-humoured, and I once invited him to dinner, when he swallowed our anecdotes bordering on romance as greedily as he did his wine, of which he took a good allowance. Indeed the character which the French have acquired of great sobriety, is only merited when they pay for their wine, for I have always found them ready to do justice to the bottle when at others expence. But to return to our Christmas dinner. In the midst of our conviviality, at nine o'clock, the lieutenant of the 43d entered, with two of the guard, and ordered us to disperse, in such an insolent manner, that I asked him, "if this brutal stile was natural to "him, or if he had received orders to use "such uncouth language?" adding, "that "if he would try the experiment, he would "find

" find that a gentlemanly manner would be
" much more certain of producing a ready
" compliance." We therefore determined that he should use force to disperse us; but this extremity he did not choose, and at last retired with his soldiers.

The arrival of troops from various quarters, and of disabled soldiers about to return to France to receive their discharge, indicated that we were likely to march soon, to the no small joy of our officers and soldiers, as well as of many French officers, who were either to compose our escort, or were returning to France for various causes. General Beliard often inspected them in the court of the Retiro, but I never spoke to him: and on the 27th December, when it was notified to us that we were to march on the 29th, I received a polite note from him requesting my company to dinner, which I refused. Indeed, his conduct had been entirely

tirely unbecoming an officer and gentleman, not only to myself, but to every English officer at Madrid; for though they were nominally on parole, they were confined in the Retiro; or when occasionally permitted to go into the town, were always accompanied by some subaltern officer, whose appearance and manners denoted any thing but a gentleman. For my own part, I refused to quit the Retiro with such an attendant, who I was sure would misrepresent every thing he heard me say, and give a false and garbled account of my conduct to the General; and I know that such misrepresentation had been made. The General paid no attention to the complaints made by the officers of the studied insults they received. It is however but justice to the generality of the French superior officers that I have had occasion to meet

meet in Spain, to acknowledge, that their conduct formed a striking contrast to that of General Beliard, and indeed they all spoke in the most indignant terms of his behaviour.

CHAPTER XXI.

From Madrid to Burgos....Village of Guadarama ....Escurial....Observations on New Castille.... Ingenious piece of water machinery....Antero de Herrares.

EARLY on the morning of the 29th December a very large convoy, collected from various parts of Spain, quitted Madrid for France. Instead of passing through the streets we made the circuit on the outside of the city, round which there is an excellent road, until we reached the Puerta de St. Vincent, where we halted, and the officers who had accompanied their friends bade them adieu; not without envy, for there were very few who were not heartily sick of the campaigns in Spain. After passing along a beautiful road for a mile

and a half, we went through the handsome gate of Segovia, and crossed the Guadarama by a superb bridge of that name. The distance from Madrid to the village of Guadarama is nine long Spanish leagues, so that on arriving there the convoy was greatly fatigued; and particularly the prisoners, after their long confinement. The road was, however, tolerably good, and the single row of trees on each side relieving the eye, made it appear shorter; the country also seemed to be well cultivated. The village of Guadarama, situated at the foot of the mountains of the same name, was in a wretched state, from the constant passage of French troops to or from Madrid; there being no other place of accommodation near it. It was formerly celebrated for its cheeses; the houses were now heaps of ruins, and the inhabitants deserted or destroyed.

Our

Our convoy consisted of several carriages, and about two thousand six hundred persons, including the Spanish prisoners, who had been retained at Madrid at hard labour in the public works, in order to force them to enter King Joseph's service; a service from which they are sure to desert as soon as possible, with their arms and accoutrements. I was billetted in a wretched house, half destroyed, where not one single accommodation was to be found. With difficulty we at last made a fire, and prepared a bed of heath, of which, however, we were dispossessed by a French officer and his wife (the most frightful gorgon I ever beheld), who on entering the apartment placed their things on our bed, *sans cérémonie*, and took possession of the fire; and some soldiers returning home on leave also coming in, we dared neither produce our provisions, or

insist on our right to the fire and bed we had been at the trouble of making: we had therefore no alternative but that of taking up our lodging in the stable with the mules, where we past the night cold, wet, and hungry.

December 30. In the morning, stiff and unrefreshed, we quitted the village of Guadarama, to cross the mountains which separate the New and Old Castilles. Here, as usual, when we came to any difficult pass, nothing but *brigands* was in the mouths of the French officers, whose apprehensions were plainly visible in their looks and conversation: and yet these were the braggadocios who, according to their own accounts, had encountered hosts. I observed that the greatest ruffians among them were the most apprehensive; and, indeed, I believe it will be always found, that persons of mild and liberal manners encounter

danger

danger with more fortitude than bullying and blustering fellows.

We halted some time on the summit of the ridge of mountains, from whence we had a fine view of the Escurial, though at too great a distance to give a circumstantial description of it from my own observations; I trust, therefore, my readers will not be displeased at my presenting them with some details taken from other travellers. This palace is considered as the eighth wonder of the world by the Spaniards, who in speaking of it use an emphatic ardour peculiar to the inhabitants of warm climates.

The edifice is an oblong with several towers; the two principal faces have between six and seven hundred feet front, and upwards of fifty in height; each angle is flanked by a tower of two hundred feet elevation, and within side is a magnificent

church. At the distance I viewed it from, the stile of architecture appeared to me to be heavy. When at Madrid, I had much satisfaction in being told by many Spanish ladies, that they fled to the Escurial for protection during its occupation by the English, under the command of Sir John Hope; and although I believe the British force was four thousand men, it gave me still greater pleasure to hear them remark, that the discipline and good conduct of the soldiers were such, that it was scarcely possible to perceive there was one in the palace.

On the summit of the mountain we observed a large square obelisk, erected by order of Charles the Third, to mark the limits of the two Castilles. As I am now about to quit New Castille, I shall beg leave to offer my readers a few observations on that kingdom, drawn from the authors I have read on the subject, as well as from the infor-

information of intelligent Spaniards with whom I have conversed.

New Castille occupies the central part of the peninsula, being surrounded by the kingdoms of Valencia, Arragon, Old Castille, Murcia, Estramadura, Cordova, Jaen, and La Mancha; it is about fifty-five leagues in length north and south, and fifty broad east and west, including the tract of country named Celliberia by the Romans.

The principal chain of mountains in this part of Spain are those antiently called Mons Orespadani; they commence with the Sierra d'Olla, and form the Sierras de Molina, de Cuença, and de Consuegra. This chain is also connected, by other ridges, with the Sierras d'Alcalas, Segura, and Cazorlo; thus forming a communication with the great chain of Grenadines already noticed, which extend in a south-west direction

to Gibraltar and Tariffa, while the Sierras de Guadarama, from whose summits I am now supposed to write, connect them in a north-west direction with the Pyrennees.

If the British government was to reflect on the chains of mountains that run in all directions through Spain, I am satisfied the mode of carrying on the war in this country would be immediately changed: for the many strong passes in these mountains are particularly calculated for partizan warfare; and if they had been properly occupied, the French would have found it totally impossible to have penetrated into the country as they have done. Although this is not the only instance of negligence or mistake, on our parts or on that of the Spaniards, yet such is the present temper of the latter, that the minister who should give up their cause as hopeless or desperate, would deserve to lose his head; while the

the French must, in the end, be convinced of the absurdity of attempting the conquest of a country of such a nature and extent.

New Castile possesses three considerable rivers, navigable from the sea for a considerable distance: they are the Tagus, the Jacar, and the Guadiana. The lesser rivers are extremely numerous, but the enumeration of them would afford little gratification to the reader; if, however, he wishes for more minute information, it will be found in Monsieur La Borde's "*Itinéraire descriptif de l'Espagne,*" a work chiefly consisting of topographical and statistical details.

The principal towns of New Castile are Madrid, Toledo, Cuença, Talavera de la Reyna,* Villa Nueva de los Infantos, Illescas,

* This town has become celebrated by the battle fought near it in 1811, between the French and British troops, when the latter gained a glorious victory under the command of the Duke of Wellington.

lescas, Zunita, Consuegra, Guadalaxara, Tremblique, Alcala de Herrarez, and Alcolea.

Among the numerous revolutions of the peninsula, New Castile has been conspicuous for the struggles it has made in defence of its liberties, and which have been sung by its bards with a degree of enthusiasm, that cannot fail to inspire the present race with the same patriot zeal in the defence of their country against the French. The title of King of the Two Castiles became extinct in the year 1475, and by the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella the whole of Spain was united into one monarchy: this period is the most glorious of the Spanish history.

Ever since the reign of Louis XIV. it has been the policy of the French cabinet to keep the Spaniards in a sort of childhood,

hood, which, added to the effects of the Inquisition on the acquirement of knowledge, seem to be the cause of Spain producing so few men of talent in recent times.

Having descended the ridge of Guadarama, we halted at a large *venta** at its foot, called Fonda de St. Raphael, two leagues from Guadarama. Here we found a strong guard posted, composed chiefly of engineers, who had taken advantage of a stream of water to execute a whimsical and very ingenious piece of mechanism, consisting of a ludicrous figure with a huge cocked hat, a sawyer cutting timber, a group of merry dancers on a horizontal wheel, and a band of musicians; the dress and faces of all these figures were admirably ridiculous, and the whole was put in movement

* An inn.

movement by the force of the stream, in such a manner that any man must have been sadly philosophic, who could refrain from laughing at them; moreover, the variety of costume and manner of the spectators added not a little to the singularity of the scene.

Monsieur Crochard, having with him a caravan filled with eatables (amongst which I was surprised to find some uncommonly fine oysters and Jamaica rum, of which latter the French are extravagantly fond), invited me with several others to partake of his breakfast, and his invitation was the more acceptable, as I had neither eat nor drank the day before. I may here observe, with respect to Mr. Crochard's good things, that Paymasters and Commissaries General in all armies have more than their share of comforts.

In the evening we reached Antero de Herrares,

Herrares, after passing through a bleak country without trees, but retaining some traces of cultivation, though now entirely neglected; for so inveterate are the Spaniards against their invaders, that they say they would cheerfully starve themselves to cause the French to perish also. Antero de Herrares is the poor remains of what seems formerly to have been a tolerable town, and at present consists of wretched mud houses and dirty streets. Here the experience of the last evening induced me to procure a non-commissioned officer, to prevent the soldiers from forcing themselves into my quarters. The serjeant appointed for this purpose was retiring to France on leave, in expectation of procuring his discharge, and was a steady, decent man.

December 31. In the morning we quitted the village for Segovia. The frost was now very

very severe, and the cold greater than I ever experienced in England, owing to the great elevation of the country above the level of the sea. Indeed it is a very mistaken idea that the degree of heat or cold depends on the latitude, for though this has a certain effect, elevation and local circumstances have still greater. There are parts of Europe, several degrees south of England, where the winters are infinitely more severe than in the latter country. At Grand Cairo, though in thirty degrees north, I have experienced a heat much greater than between the tropics, which is doubtless caused by the winds blowing over large tracts of burning sands.

We reached Segovia, which is four leagues from Antero de Herrares, at two o'clock in the afternoon. The street we entered by was so narrow and so crowded with carriages, driving in every direction,

direction, that it took us a considerable time to reach the municipality, situated at the farther extremity of the town.

Here is an aqueduct, considered one of the greatest curiosities of Spain, and believed by the Spaniards to be so antient that my landlord very seriously assured me it was the workmanship of the same architect who built the temple of Seraphis in Egypt; more moderate antiquarians however ascribe it to the reign of Trajan. By it the water is conducted across a ravine, and traverses the place and valley of Azoguego; it is from seventy to eighty feet long, and eighty to ninety high, and a great number of little canals or pipes branch off from it and convey the water to all parts of the city.

I was billetted in a magnificent house, of which I occupied a large apartment, covered with antient gilding and looking glasses,

glasses, but without fireplace or brasier, so that I was starved with cold. I dined with our officers, who were quartered at the next door, and where a priest and several Spaniards of consideration paid us a visit in the evening, and indulged themselves in abusing the French ; for having a perfect confidence in us they spoke their sentiments freely. My landlord and his family paid much attention to the Spanish officers, and made many anxious enquiries after their son who had been made prisoner at Ciudad Rodrigo. There were also two daughters of the master of the house, of very superior manners, handsome, and obliging.

I here passed the last night of the year most wretchedly, almost frozen from want of bed covering or fire, and suffering greatly from the pain in my chest and spitting of blood. Nor did the morning of the new year (January 1, 1811) bring with it any meliora-

tion.

tion. Cold and unrefreshed, when I arose, my reflections were melancholy in the extreme, from the contrast of my present situation with that of the preceding year,—when I received the congratulations and compliments usual at this season from those friends whose expressions and looks spoke the sincerity of their good wishes,—now a prisoner in a distant country, and separated for an undetermined period from those I loved most dearly. I attempted to drive away these sad thoughts by a walk in the town; but the streets were so covered with ice, that walking was disagreeable and dangerous, and I was obliged to return. In the forenoon I however received the visit of a forward little Irish priest, whom I accompanied to the hospital, where I found several wounded English soldiers of the guards, 61st and 78th regiments, most of whom had lost a limb, and some two. It

seemed to me that the treatment of their wounds by the French surgeon, was by no means what might have been expected, from their supposed excellence of this art. The priest, as chaplain, had considerable influence in the management of the hospital, and introduced me to the director, who was very civil. From hence I paid a visit to General Filhie, commandant of the town, and an officer of the old school, which supposes a gentleman in manners and address. He invited me to dinner; but his hour being three o'clock, I was obliged to decline it, for as I was to continue my journey next morning, I wished to employ the afternoon in seeing the town. The General was lodged in the palace of the Alcazar, a very antient and interesting building; the apartments richly ornamented with mosaic and gilding, but generally ill proportioned. It was inhabited by Alfonzo the Wise, celebrated

brated for his astronomical tables. In the chapel there still remained some pictures covered with dust, and in a gallery several statues of Spanish princes and great men, amongst whom I noticed that of Ferdinand Gonzalez, proclaimed first Count of Castile in 923, and of the famous warrior Roderigue Dias de Bivar, better known by the name of the Cid Campeadore.

From the Alcazar I visited the cathedral, with my guide the priest, who told me that though he had been twenty-eight years in Segovia, he now for the first time entered this church; and yet few in Europe are more worthy of observation, either as to architecture, situation or internal decoration. Though built only in the sixteenth century, it is chiefly Roman; among the ornaments which remain (for it had been plundered of the most valuable) are several marble statues well executed by an artist

named Manuel Pachero. In the chapels are also some tolerable pictures and figures in bas relief, but a large silver figure of the Virgin has disappeared.—Having satisfied my curiosity here I accompanied the priest to the castle, a Moorish work situated on an elevated granite rock, with the river on the right and a perpendicular precipice some hundred feet deep on the left, at the foot of which runs another river; so that the rock is placed at the junction of the two rivers. Its shape has a considerable resemblance to that of a ship, the town being longer than it is broad, swelling out in the middle and narrowing towards the stern; and when looking down on it from the castle, you may fancy yourself in the foretop of a vessel. The castle was now filled with soldiers, who were committing all kinds of depredations on the floors and walls, which are covered with elegant mosaic.

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On quitting the castle, I heard myself wished a happy new year in English; and certainly Robinson Crusoe could not have been much more surprised at hearing his parrot cry "*poor Robin!*" than I was at being addressed in an English voice from so unexpected a place. The compliment was several times repeated; but I for some time looked round in vain for the speaker, until at last I observed the unfortunate lad, Archibald Lindsey, looking through the grate of an upper apartment, and learnt from him that he was confined there in chains, without fire, or one earthly consolation. The miserable situation of this poor fellow made me feel most forcibly how little my own was to be complained of, when compared with his, which united captivity, cold and hunger, and brought to my recollection a passage in one of Sterne's sermons, admirably appropriate.

" Heaven have pity upon the youth, for
" he is in hunger and in distress, strayed
" out of the reach of a parent, who counts
" every hour of his absence with anguish;
" cut off from all his tender offices by his
" folly, and from relief and charity from
" others, by the calamities of the times.

" Nothing so powerfully calls home the
" mind as distress: the tense fibre then re-
" laxes, the soul retires to itself, sits pen-
" sive, and is susceptible of right impres-
" sions. If we have a friend, 'tis then we
" think of him; if a benefactor, at that
" moment all his kindnesses impress upon
" our mind.—Gracious and bountiful God,
" is it not for this that they who in their
" prosperity forget thee, do yet remember
" and return to thee in the hour of sorrow!

" When our heart is in heaviness, upon
" whom can we think but thee, who
" knowest our necessities afar off, puttest

" all

" all our tears in thy bottle—seest every
" careful thought, hearest every sigh and
" melancholy groan we utter!"

Every effort, as I have before noticed, had been used to induce this poor lad to enter into the French service, but without effect; and as a punishment for his virtuous patriotism, he was now thus starving in chains. Indeed, I have observed many instances of heroic constancy in this respect, as well in Spaniards as in English, which proved the great strength of character of the former, and raised them infinitely above the Germans, who change sides with circumstances, and are indifferent into whose hands their country falls.

From the castle we proceeded to the Governor's residence, where the priest, who was entirely Irish as to the absence of *mauvaise honte*, called for wine and brandy, to which he did ample justice. From

hence we went to the place of military execution, where the victim is placed on a marble slab, close to a wall, which I observed pierced with vast numbers of bullets, and the ground strewed with pieces of the skull of a Spanish lieutenant, who had been shot here the preceding day. From this fatal spot, well calculated to inspire the most melancholy reflections, I retired, oppressed and unwell, and visited the mint, where brass is now only coined, and but little of it; the building is insignificant, and by no means answers the descriptions I have read of it.

In returning to my lodging, I met Messrs. Cavallos and Hervot, who pressed me to dine with them, which I promised, if I could get rid of my priest; and in this I only succeeded by plying him with brandy. I did not feel without alarm in going to dinner, for the evening was very dark, and

I knew

I knew that several French had been killed the same day in a scuffle with the Spaniards. I had not gone far when I heard the firing of musquets and a great outcry, and soon after heard that four Frenchmen and a woman had been massacred; one of the men, it seems, was a follower of the army, a description of fellows who commit infinitely more depredations than the soldiers. In the act of spoliation, the female campaigners are worse than the men; for being lost to every feminine virtue, they plunder and murder with the greatest coolness and composure. The house we dined at had formerly been an extensive woollen manufactory, but was now much declined. The party was pleasant, and the dinner tolerable. On my return to my quarters, I found my landlord and his amiable daughters assembled in the kitchen. They expressed the anxiety they had been under for

for my safety: and finding the old man in a conversible humour, I sat down with a segar, and gave him all the information I could respecting the state of affairs in the interior of Spain. He soon became animated with the subject, and grasping the tongs, exclaimed with energy, " would I " were young again! but old as I am, I " hope before I die to assist in expelling " these villains from Spain!" Such, indeed, is the common sentiment of the Spaniards in general, and it is to be hoped and expected that they will be ultimately successful, for they are truly fighting *pro aris et focis.*

CHAPTER XXII.

From Segovia to Valladolid....Convoy of bread.... German Baron....Santa Maria de Neva....French servant deserts....Moorish palace....Convoy attacked....German insolence....Val de Stillas.... Wretched accommodation....French cruelty.... English prisoners escape.

On the morning of January 2, I quitted Segovia some time before the convoy, and accompanied only by my batt-man Pierre, who was charged with the care of the mules, and who was much terrified from the number of French killed the night before, expecting every moment to share the same fate. We rode along the bank of the river, having the walls of the town, which are very high, on our left, and the castle, situated on a rock, affording a romantic view.

view. We soon came up with the convoy, whose march was much retarded by waggons loaded with bread, sent from Madrid, and intended for Massena's army in Portugal, of which two hundred out of the original five hundred were already lost from various accidents. The country we passed through was rather hilly, and now covered with snow, so that I could not well distinguish the nature of the soil; but it appeared to have been formerly cultivated. At a late hour we reached Santa Maria de Neva, an uncomfortable town. Here I found the quarters assigned me occupied by a German colonel, whom I soon discovered to be my old acquaintance, Colonel Baron de Faustein, Chamberlain to the Emperor, and Colonel of the regiment of Baden. With great politeness he offered me the choice of three tolerable apartments, besides which there was a good kitchen, and plenty

plenty of accommodation for the servants. The Baron soon putting himself at ease *en déshabille*, took post in the chimney corner with his pipe; and certainly was a most extraordinary figure, his thin body being wrapped up in flannel. He wore immense mustachios, and had on a large curious nightcap; so that he extorted a laugh even from the solemn gravity of our Spanish host. As we were dependent for our supper on what the Baron's stock afforded, we both began to prepare our repast, he undertaking to compose a soup of pork, rice and eggs, while I manufactured a hash, and fricassied the fragments of a turkey. During my employment in this momentous business, we drank plentifully of snaps of brandy, and when I laughed at the grotesque figure of the Baron, which there was no resisting, he thinking I was laughing at our employment, joined heartily in it, while

while sympathy acted upon his man Frederick, and by a kind of merry contagion, all the persons present, amounting to ten or twelve, resembled the picture of " all in " good humour." At our repast our solemn host joined us, and he falling fast asleep, I could not resist the pleasure of blacking his face with a burnt cork, which set the Baron in so loud a roar of laughter, that it actually woke the Spaniard, who, in his turn, thinking there must be some good joke, but ignorant that it was at his own expence, laughed also; and thus these two caricatures amused each other, to the entertainment of us all.

Before I went to bed I visited the cattle, suspecting that they might be neglected, and found that they had neither been cleaned or fed, nor their saddles taken off, and that Monsieur Pierre had appropriated the sheet of my favourite mare to cover himself.

On

On sending for him, I received a most insolent answer to my remonstrance, and knowing I could get no other redress, I revenged myself pugilistically; a kind of art the French are totally unacquainted with, and very averse to. He decamped next morning, and left me to take care of the cattle myself; for though I had another servant, he had an antipathy to horses and dogs, neither of which he would approach.

January 3. On quitting Santa Maria de Neva, the country we passed through was very romantic, the soil rich, and retaining the marks of cultivation; but now a waste. The villages we saw were composed of wretched mud hovels, and the peasants universally drest in coarse brown frieze, and both themselves and their habitations seemed equally miserable. In several of these villages all the doors and windows

were

were closed, nor did we see a single soul in them.

The convoys had been often attacked in this part of the country, and we were therefore now ordered to keep in close order. At last we reached the Moorish palace of Las Navas de Colla, most beautifully situated on the banks of a river, and commanding an extensive view of a very rich country. Accompanied by M. Crochard, I went forward to view this building. We observed that it had been fortified, and, from its position, must have been impregnable before the use of cannon. It is surrounded by a ditch, crossed by a drawbridge, so crazy, that we passed it with some difficulty. The palace is of considerable extent, and retains all its Moorish ornaments, the floors being of fine mosaic, and the ceilings richly gilt and grotesquely painted. Indeed, it seemed that neither expence nor

art

art had been spared to render it magnificent according to the Moorish taste, which was so different to ours, that their mode of life, as described by historians, resembles romance.

While examining the palace, a heavy firing announced the convoy's being attacked by the brigands, who, it appeared, were composed of the inhabitants of the village, of which we had seen the windows and doors closed, and who had concealed themselves until the convoy had arrived at a bridge, crossing the river, which was very winding, and bounded on each side by steep hills. In this spot they attacked the rear of the convoy, and I had a complete view of the affair from the summit of the hill. A detachment of the 10th hussars charged the brigands, and troops were sent in various directions. This skirmish cost the French eight hussars and two wag-

goners killed; some soldiers, twelve horses and four loaded carts taken, on one of which was the Paymaster's military chest. These brigands were commanded by a German captain, who had deserted with his company from Santa Maria de Neva, of which he had been commandant. Their number did not exceed two hundred, while the convoy was upwards of twelve hundred; a proof of the daring spirit of the Spanish peasantry! Every individual Frenchman, however, according to his own word, would not have hesitated to attack the whole party; indeed, nothing could be more disgusting than these fellows' continual gasconade. After this affair, we passed through a very hilly and sandy track, and as our horses were in wretched condition for want of forage, we proceeded very slowly, added to which the breaking down of several bread waggons, retarded us still more. One of the officers

officers requested me to ride forward and inform an officer of the 10th chasseurs of this accident, and to tell him, that as it was necessary to break up the case, his people might have as much bread as they pleased. This message I delivered in pure kindness, and without any signs of satisfaction in my manner; nevertheless it put the officer in a violent passion, which he expressed both in his language and gestures. He was a German, and, as I have already observed, the inferior German officers in the French service are any thing but gentlemen.

Late at night we reached Olmeda, an insignificant town, and next morning proceeded, through a very sandy country, by very deep roads, to Val de Stillas, where I was billetted at the house of a poor old man, whose habitation consisted only of two apartments, one of which was occupied by

himself and son, and the other was half unroofed. There was neither chair, stool, nor table, and but one earthen pot, in which I boiled a few onions and some mutton I had brought with me, and which made a mess sufficient for myself and servants, as well as the old man and his son; a treat indeed to them, for they had not tasted flesh for a twelvemonth! We washed down this homely repast with *agua ardiente.* Our table, at which we all set indiscriminately, was a board I had procured in the village, and our seat a bank of earth. My bed was the uneven mud floor, wet from the rain, which poured in through the roof; and I had no other covering than my clothes on my back, which were likewise very wet from the day's rain. Notwithstanding my situation, I slept as soundly as if on a bed of down; nor was this the first

first time that I enjoyed a sweeter repose, thus exposed to the inclemency of the weather, than in a splendid apartment, surrounded by luxury, but at the same time annoyed by sameness and want of occupation.

During the night, a wretched old man sought refuge in the house, and informed us that his son had just been murdered, and himself desperately wounded by the soldiers, who had torn the roof off his hovel to make a fire. It is impossible, without having witnessed it, to form an adequate idea of the horrors inflicted on the Spanish peasantry by the French soldiers; over whom, in consequence of their being generally in long arrears of pay, and often in total want of provisions, their officers have scarce any control. In the morning we found that the peasants had, during the

night, gone off with the bullocks which were to draw the bread-waggons, and the bread was in consequence heaped up on the outside of the village, without covering; and a heavy rain coming on, it must have been soon totally destroyed. Thus Marshal Massena, for whose army it was intended, was disappointed of this expected and greatly wanted relief.

January 4. The day being wet, the march of the convoy became very irregular, for as there are two roads leading to Valladolid, the first division took one, and the second the other; so that when the bugle sounded a halt, one party, not hearing it, pushed on, and arrived at Valladolid long before the division that remained with the commanding officer. From the irregularity of the march, many of the English prisoners effected their escape; indeed, latterly,

latterly, no great pains were taken to prevent them, and seldom any inquiry was made on their disappearing. Close to the town, at the meeting of two roads, we were greeted with the spectacle of a man's head stuck on a pole.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Valladolid....General Kellerman....Parting breakfast....French dismounted dragoons....Botanical conversation....Burgos....The Cid.

At Valladolid I was billetted in comfortable quarters, at a merchant's house, which was some compensation for the various privations I had lately suffered. As soon as I had made myself fit to appear I waited on General Kellerman, who received me most politely, and whose mild and gentlemanly manners could not fail to make a strong impression in his favour, when compared with the ferocious and vulgar brutes I had encountered. He speaks English tolerably well, and seems to admire the English character; though, from the illiberality of his master, it is not very prudent to express

press this sentiment openly. He invited me to dinner with Monsieur and Madame Crochard and M. Diniez; the repast was good and the wines excellent. In the evening, the General advised me and M. Diniez to proceed with a convoy of dismounted dragoons going to France to be remounted, by which we should expedite our journey; and to this proposal we readily assented.

On my return to my quarters I found the family at cards, in which I joined, and at ten o'clock supper was brought in, consisting of a sallad of beet-root and other vegetables, and some anchovies. Indeed the Spaniards are extremely frugal or rather abstemious in their diet, of which flesh meat forms a very small portion; nor have they the least idea of those enormous joints under which our English tables groan.

January 5. In the morning I strolled about

about the town, which appears to have been for some time on the decline; most of the magnificent gateways are in ruins, and many have never been finished, as though the proprietors had began on too great a scale, and wanted the means of completing them. The two principal squares are the Campo-Grande and Plaza Mayor; the buildings of the former are without regularity, and it is scarce possible to pass through it for heaps of ordure. The Plaza Mayor is surrounded by a colonnade, under which is a promenade, adorned with all the best shops. It is probable that this colonnade was intended to be very magnificent, and it may look well on paper, but the execution is below mediocrity.

The Ochavo is an octagon place, the buildings of which are in ruins, and the centre occupied by heaps of mire, into one of which I plunged up to my middle, in returning

returning home from dining with our officers, who had their quarters in this Plaza.

Valladolid is built on a low swampy soil, which, added to the national want of cleanliness, renders it filthy in the extreme. Its promenades are celebrated, but neither the weather (which was very wet) nor my time would permit me to visit them; the latter being occupied in purchasing provisions, which we were always obliged to do in every large town to last us to the next, generally a journey of three or four days. I saw however the Prado de la Magdelaine, on the Esquiva, which has some large trees, and is probably a pleasant walk in summer, but at this time all was dreary and gloomy from the cold, wet and uncomfortable weather.

The churches of Valladolid seem not to equal those of many other inferior towns of Spain. The cathedral is but half finished, and

and I observed nothing in the others worthy of particular notice; except some good paintings in that of the Augustins, particularly a Descent from the Cross, by Hernandez.

January 7, we quitted Valladolid an hour before day, but halted a considerable time at the gate, which I believe was intentional; for I found on reaching it an officer waiting for me, who informed me that he had instructions to apprehend and convey me *vi et armis* into a *posada*, where Messrs. Cavallos and Hervot had prepared a sumptuous breakfast of cold ham, hot mutton, salt fish, and many other substantial things, which I was obliged to wash down with several parting glasses of liqueur and brandy; and, on taking leave, Monsieur Hervot presented me with a small silver cup, as a *souvenir de l'amitié éternelle.* Embracing these gentlemen, who were here to quit the

convoy

convoy on their way to Portugal to join the French army in that country, we bade each other an affectionate farewell; not without sensations of regret, on my part at least.

Monsieur de Billi, another gentleman, and myself, who had partaken of the repast, were obliged to gallop on to overtake the light convoy. We found the road covered with carts and waggons loaded with wool, which had been levied by the French as part of the contributions, and was on its way to France. Our convoy was now composed of the 20th and 21st light dragoons returning from Portugal, and proceeding to Pau to be remounted. These regiments, it was said, neglected their horses very much, and consequently were no favourites. One of the officers, as is usual with Frenchmen, entered familiarly into conversation with me, recounting the miseries of the campaign in Portugal; but which were scarcely worth mentioning

mentioning in comparison with their sufferings since, particularly in Massena's retreat. We halted at a village where Monsieur Diniez and some gentlemen had ordered a repast to be prepared; after partaking of which, we continued our march and arrived in the evening at Turcomania, eight Spanish leagues from Valladolid. This place we quitted early in the morning of January 8, being anxious to get before the other convoy. The road was good, and we advanced rapidly. I was amused by the conversation of a Monsieur Vilmansen, who introduced himself by telling me, that he should soon be happy, eating oysters at Bourdeaux; and related the enormous quantity he had eat when last there, with such an expressive manner, as if he was swallowing them at the moment. Our conversation was not however confined to *gourmandism*, for the appearance of the country leading us to

the

the subject of botany, I found he was tolerably acquainted with this branch of natural history, and as I knew a little of it myself, we kept up the conversation with mutual satisfaction. In the evening we arrived at Alada, a small insignificant village.

January 9. Next morning, though the escort was much fatigued, we left Alada at an early hour, and proceeded by a narrow and broken road along the banks of the Arlançon, which was now an insignificant stream, but sometimes swells so much as to overflow, and cause considerable damage. A little before dark we reached Burgos, on the outside of which we perceived the shocking spectacle of eighteen poor wretches hanging. These sights, so often presented to us in our march, are doubtless intended to intimidate the Spaniards,

Spaniards, but have a directly opposite effect, inspiring them only with revenge.

After crossing a bridge over the Arlançon, we entered Burgos by a gate, and passed along a handsome promenade on the banks of the river, planted with trees and in good order. I found some difficulty in procuring a billet, but at last was quartered at a priest's house, who with his sister, a handsome girl, and maid servant, composed the family. The females at first received me in a most uncourteous manner, but when they were informed that, instead of being a German or other follower of the French, I was an English prisoner, they entirely changed their tone, and every thing the house afforded was brought forward, and the mules accommodated in the hall, for want of any other place. In short, I experienced the utmost hospitality, which

was

was the more agreeable from the first forbidding reception. Nor was this the first time by many that I had the satisfaction of experiencing, that the name of Englishman is a passport to hospitality and kindness in all parts of the world: even among the Arabs of the desert I have found it so, when entirely in their power.

January 10. In the morning I called to pay my respects to General Count Dorsenne, the governor, but not finding him at home, I strolled through the town, which is one of the best built that I have seen in Spain. The gates, of which there are several, are handsome; and a large square, surrounded by a colonnade supported by marble pillars, and under it rows of well filled shops, has the appearance of industry and prosperity. At one side of the square is a magnificent arch, also supported by marble columns of the Corinthian

order, which leads to the promenade on the banks of the river. Opposite to this gate is the tomb of the Cid, to whom Burgos has the honour of giving birth, as well as of possessing his remains.

The exploits of this renowned warrior (the relation of which is supposed by Cervantes to have principally caused the derangement of the worthy knight of La Mancha), are collected from the old Spanish chronicles and ballads, and admirably put into English by Mr. Southey. As all my readers may not have seen this extraordinary and almost romantic narrative, I trust I shall be excused for transcribing a sketch of it from the review of Mr. Southey's work.

"Roderigo of Bivar, a youth strong in "arms, and of good customs, destined to "protect his country from the Moors, was "born at Burgos in the reign of King Fer-

"nando,

" nando of Castile; and in the year 1026
" his father Diego Laynez, chief of the
" noble house, had received a blow from
" the Count Don Gomez, the Lord of
" Gormay. Now," says Mr. Southey,
" Diego was a man in years, and his
" strength had passed from him, so that
" he could not take vengeance, and he re-
" tired to his home, to dwell there in soli-
" tude and lament over his dishonour:
" he took no pleasure in his food, neither
" could he sleep by night, nor would he
" lift up his eyes from the ground, nor stir
" out of his house, nor commune with his
" friends, but turned from them in silence,
" as if the breath of his shame would taint
" them. Roderigo was yet but a youth,
" and the Count was a mighty man in
" arms, one who gave his voice first in the
" Cortes, and was held to be the best in
" the war, and so powerful that he had a

 " thousand

" thousand friends among the mountains.
" Howbeit all these things appeared as no-
" thing to Roderigo, when he thought of
" the wrong done to his father, the first
" which had ever been offered to the blood
" of Layn Calvo. He asked nothing but
" justice of Heaven, and of man he only
" asked a fair field; and his father, seeing
" of how good heart he was, gave him his
" sword and his blessing. The sword had
" been the sword of Mudarra in former
" times, and when Roderigo held its cross
" in his hand, he thought within himself
" that his arm was not weaker than Mu-
" darra's. And he went out and defied
" the Count, and slew him, and smote off
" his head and carried it home to his fa-
" ther. The old man was sitting at table,
" the food lying before him untasted, when
" Roderigo returned, and pointing to the
" head which hung from the horse's collar

" dropping

" dropping blood, he bade him look up,
" for there was the herb which should
" restore to him his appetite; the tongue,
" quoth he, which insulted you, is no
" longer a tongue, and the head which
" wronged you is no longer a head. And
" the old man rose and embraced his son,
" and placed him above him at the table,
" saying, that he who had brought home
" that head should be the head of the
" house of Layn Calvo.

" The Castilian monarch for some of-
" fence afterwards banished the Cid from
" his dominions. On his going the Cid
" then assembled his relations, vassals,
" and retainers, whom his influence and
" high military reputation had attached to
" his person, and resolved at their head to
" have Castile, and subsist by a predatory
" war among the Moors.

" And as he was about to depart he look-

" ed back upon his own house: and when
" he saw his hall deserted, the household
" chests unfastened, the doors open, no
" cloaks hanging up, no seats in the porch,
" no hawks upon the perches, the tears
" came into his eyes, and he said, my ene-
" mies have done this! God be praised for
" all things. And he turned towards the
" east, and knelt and said, Holy Mary,
" Mother, and all Saints, pray to God for
" me, that he may give me strength to
" destroy all the Pagans, and to win
" enough from them to requite my friends
" therewith, and all those who follow and
" help me, &c. &c."

CHAPTER XXIV.

From Burgos to Mendragon..... Generosity of a priest.... Vittoria.... Old Castile....Women on mules..... Shoeing oxen..... *Nonchalance* of a French soldier.... Inveteracy of the Spaniards.

We quitted Burgos at five o'clock in the morning of January 11, in an extremely hard frost, and passed through a fertile and well cultivated country, with numerous villages, in all of which were parties of the French imperial guards, who had fortified themselves against the brigands, and seldom stirred out of the works. In the evening we reached the village of Bribiesca, eight Spanish leagues from Burgos; where I had the good fortune to be billetted at the house of a worthy priest, who

the moment he found I was English, studied in every possible manner to make me comfortable, even to the offering me money, which, however, not being in want of, I declined accepting. Indeed, the enthusiasm of the Spaniards of all classes, in favour of the English, was now at the highest; and it is to this general attachment, as well as to their hatred of the French name, that we are to look for the final triumph of Spain. The assistance of the English is however not the less necessary, in expediting this result, for the Spanish regular armies scarce deserve the name.

January 12, at a very early hour, we recommenced our march; and about noon reached the village of Pancorvo, so strongly situated that a thousand men might easily defend it against a great army. On the summit of a hill is a regular fortification, but from the inequality of the ground I

should

should think it of little use; neither does it command the village, which is placed between two high rocks, and approached by a winding road with very short turns. After quitting this village I had much conversation with Colonel Natalis, of the engineers, a very diffident but well informed officer, who expressed his conviction that the conquest of Spain was at this time more difficult than ever. After a tiresome march of seven leagues we reached Miranda, a tolerable village; and here I was once more quartered on a good priest, who was no less rejoiced than myself; for had he been saddled with a French officer, he must not only have furnished him with every thing he required *gratis*, but most probably would have been insulted into the bargain.

January 13. In the morning we pursued our march along the banks of a small river, which flows through a very rich valley,

to

to the village of Mont Alban, where we breakfasted, and at three o'clock entered Vittoria, by a very handsome promenade, on which, the day being fine, a great crowd of persons had assembled to view us. After dressing I waited on Count Caffarelli, the commandant, but he not being at home, I amused myself viewing the chasseurs légers of the imperial guard, who were on the parade and made a good appearance; their band was extremely strong, there being thirty-nine performers on the parade. The superior pay, and high consideration in which this corps of the army is held, creates a general jealousy among the rest. I observed that the officers inspected their soldiers nearly in the same manner as in our service. In returning from the parade I met General Caffarelli, who received me politely; and while we were walking to his residence he informed me with rapture of the

capture

capture of Tortosa and nine thousand two hundred Spanish troops; at the same time giving me the French official account to read, seeming to forget that such news could not be very agreeable to an English officer. He was however very civil, and regretted his being prevented from asking me to dinner by an engagement abroad. We walked together to the bishop's palace, situated in a new square, the buildings of which, though small, are very handsome, and kept in great order. Indeed, in every respect, Vittoria is one of the best looking towns I have seen in Spain, having in general the appearance of industry and comfort. It is the chief town of Alava, formerly one of the provinces of Biscay, but now united to Old Castile; and has considerable iron works, the produce of which is sent to various parts of Spain. It was formerly also an *entrepôt* of colonial produce,

duce, but this advantage it has almost totally lost by Napoleon's prohibitory decrees. Its manufactories of woollens, silk, and cotton, however, still exist, and it has a great number of straw, chair, and tin workshops. Its population is about six thousand. The most conspicuous public building is the hospital, which is well distributed and regulated; it has two hundred beds, and though intended for the use of the people of the town alone, it was now full of French soldiers.

I dined late and alone at my quarters, and in the evening enjoyed the pleasing society of my landlord, a physician, and his family, who with some neighbours, among whom were some pretty girls, were assembled in the kitchen. We played at Bouillotte, and the young ladies, I suppose from my being a stranger, took a great interest in my game. The evening closed with a

supper,

supper, and some delightfully wild and simple Spanish airs, accompanied by the guitar.

Having now quitted Old Castile, and entered into a totally different country, I trust my readers will not be displeased with a few observations I was enabled to make on the former. The soil of Old Castile, though inferior to that of several other parts of Spain, is, generally speaking, superior to France, and most other parts of Europe; and industry is alone wanting to bring it to a high state of forwardness. Some districts afford good wine, and the finest wool of the kingdom.

Two considerable rivers, the Douro and the Ebro, rise in Old Castile; the former in the Sierra d'Urbino, from whence it runs in a western direction across Spain, and after a course of three hundred and twenty miles empties itself into the Atlantic Ocean, at Oporto.

Oporto. The Ebro has its source in the mountains of Santillane, near the Asturias, and runs easterly to the Mediterranean. Besides these principal rivers Old Castile has a number of inferior ones, amongst which are the Arlançon, Arlanca, Nazarilla, Valtayo Buryo, and the Paz, which runs through the fertile valley of the same name, and of whose waters the inhabitants have taken advantage to carry irrigation to a high state of perfection. The peasants of this valley, known by the name of Paziegos, are celebrated for their bodily strength and personal courage.

Old Castille has several considerable towns, but the present state of uncertainty (as to who shall eventually remain master of the country, as well as the natural indolence of the Spaniards,) paralyzes all industry; and hence the towns in general present the appearance of lifeless stupor.

As

As it is impossible to repeat too often how effectually the Spaniards might resist their invaders by a proper occupation of the mountain passes, I shall just notice those of Old Castile, not only from my own observations, and an attention to the maps, but also from various authors who have written on Spain. The mountains of St. Andero extend from Old Castile to the Bay of Biscay, and have several passes of such a nature that a regular army could never force them, if properly defended by the mountaineers. The Sierra d'Atujio covers almost the entire of Castile, to the frontiers of Arragon; and the Sierra d'Occa, the Mons Idubeda of the Romans, extends to the kingdom of Leon and the borders of Biscay, separating Old Castile from the Asturias. Besides these principal ridges there are several ramifications, rendering this country one of the most defensible of Europe.

Having

Having quitted Vittoria at five o'clock in the morning, the 14th of January, the arrival of daylight presented us with the view of a country very different from that which we had hitherto traversed. The mountains of Biscay appeared wooded to their summits, and the fertile vallies, even at this dreary season, presented the most romantic scenery, which the appearance of industry rendered doubly pleasing. The soil appeared to be in general a stiff clay, requiring many drains, and where a plough can seldom be used; instead of which, the ground is turned up with long three pronged forks. Four men, with one of these implements in each hand, place themselves at the side of the drain, and sticking the fork in the ground spring up on them, keeping exact time, while a woman clears the drain. Here I observed extensive fields of various kinds of vetches, and of turnips, not so large,

large, but more solid than our Norfolk turnips. This is the first time I have seen this root cultivated in fields in Spain.

We frequently met mules with a strong basket slung on each side of them, something resembling those in which oysters are carried in England; on inquiry I found they contained horseshoes, which are manufactured to a great extent in this part of Biscay, and sent to all parts of Spain. It is here customary to shoe the oxen, which is thus performed. The animal is placed in a frame resembling that in which our farriers cut horses' tails: in the centre is a pully, by which, and by the power of a windlass, the ox is raised off the ground, the fore knees are bent and kept so by iron clasps near each knee, the hind feet are extended on a board, so as to present the flat of the hoof to receive the shoe, and the tail is made fast to the top of the frame, so that altogether the animal makes

a strange ludicrous appearance as if going to fly.

From the summit of a hill we got the first view of the village of Salinas, where we were to breakfast; it appeared to be perpendicularly beneath us, and no visible road to descend by; we however found a zig-zag, which reminded me of Ladder Hill, in the island of St. Helena; but with this difference, that there nothing but barren black rocky precipices present themselves to the eye, commanding a boundless view of the Ocean; while here you wind down the hill through a thick wood, and hear the fall of a cascade concealed among the trees.

As we entered Salinas, a discharged French soldier solicited charity, telling me a lamentable story of his sufferings and wounds; I gave him a *picette*,* and while sitting

* A silver coin worth about fourteen pence.

sitting at breakfast at a *fonda*, I was surprised to see him enter the room, draw a chair and seat himself at the table, with all the *nonchalance* possible, while with a part of my small donation he procured a hearty breakfast, and during the repast conversed with me with perfect familiarity. Here I may observe, that certainly I gained more knowledge of the manners of foreigners during this *bon gré mal gré* journey through Spain, than I should probably have done in travelling my whole life in the usual manner; for I was now obliged to mix with all descriptions of persons, from the General to the private soldier, and with Spaniards, French, Poles, and that motley and debased species of Germans that forms the contingents of the Confederation of the Rhine.

From Salinas, the distance to Mendragon is only four leagues, by a rapid descent, so that we reached this latter place early, and

I had the good fortune to be again billetted on a priest. I found however much difficulty in procuring rations for myself or provender for the mules, from not having a *feuille de route* (my name being only included in the general list of prisoners) which was left with the officer commanding the preceding convoy; but at last succeeded, and after dinner spent the evening in the kitchen, where were assembled several girls, who while they spun, amused the time chanting Spanish ditties, which derived an increased agreeableness from the innocence and simplicity of the singers. I was told that a girl could earn by spinning at her leisure hours only, and merely as a pastime, three *reals* a week, or about twenty-one pence English.

The appearance of the French chasseur who took care of the mules, immediately checked the gaiety of the Spanish girls, and

and a gloomy silence succeeded, of which I immediately perceived the cause, and taking an opportunity of getting rid of the chasseur, good humour was immediately restored.

Mendragon contains about three thousand inhabitants; is built between two lofty hills, and intersected by a large river and several rivulets; and was formerly much frequented for its mineral waters. A few days before our arrival, the Cabildo and his son had been executed, for (as we were told) the assassination at various times of upwards of two hundred French. When led to execution, instead of feeling any compunction for their murders, they gloried in them, and reminded their countrymen, "that, if "every Spaniard had, like them, performed "*his duty!* the French would long before "this have been exterminated and the "country freed."

CHAPTER XXV.

From Mendragon to St. Jean de Luz, in France.... Tolosa....Villa Reale.....Urnieta....From St. John de Luz....Biscay.

JANUARY 15. We resumed our march at an early hour, and passed through a mountainous country, of which some parts were highly cultivated, while others were covered with hanging woods of oak and ash. The oaks were in general small and crooked, nor was the common ash luxuriant; but the mountain ash, intermixed and covered with its red berries, had an agreeable effect.

About noon we reached the town of Tolosa, the ancient Iturissa, on the rivers Arexes and Orio, over each of which is a handsome

handsome bridge. It being market-day, we had an opportunity of seeing a number of Biscayners assembled, who had the appearance of prosperity in their dress, and of affability in their manners. The women of this province are celebrated for their beauty, and those we saw justified this character. The market seemed to be well supplied with all kinds of provisions.

Here we found an excellent inn, a very uncommon thing in the small towns of Spain. Monsieur de Billi, who was ordered to quit us, to join General Mont Marie, as his aide-de-camp, at Valencia, gave a sumptuous breakfast; after which we proceeded, and de Billi accompanied me out of the town, being obliged to wait at Tolosa for an escort. I hoped that, as I was on horseback, I should have escaped the parting embrace, *à la Françoise*; but was disappointed, for when about to return, he

stopped his horse in the middle of the convoy, and kissed me very cordially on each cheek. He was, however, a good fellow; and I was afterwards very sorry to learn, that he lost one of his arms in an affair at Valencia.

During the day's march we passed through several narrow and winding passes in the Pyrennees, excavated in the solid rock at vast labour; and had an opportunity of observing the singular mode of travelling of the Biscay women, two being usually conveyed by a mule, one on each side, balancing each other, while the strange caparison of the animal, and the still stranger costume of the women, afforded a subject worthy the pencil of a Hogarth.

In the evening we reached Villa Reale, a middling town, and the following morning (January 16) continued our journey in a heavy rain, that had prevailed throughout the preceding

preceding night, and produced a great number of cascades, some of considerable size, which tumbling perpendicularly from great heights, gave an additional interest to the romantic scenery around. A commissary invited me to take shelter in a caisson, and I was somewhat surprised to find so much good sense and candour in a Frenchman of that class; but was soon undeceived, by his telling me that he had the honour and happiness to be a Swiss. Adverting to the number of dismounted dragoons returning to France, and who principally formed our escort, I inquired the cause of so great a destruction of horses in the French army, and learnt that it was owing to the neglect in the management of them. The commissary, who was in a situation to ascertain the fact, assured me that the French armies in Spain had lost sixty thousand horses, valued each at sixteen louis; which makes the

total

total loss in this article of military expenditure alone, amount to near one million sterling. From this person I also received some account of the French army in Portugal, which he said was at times so short of provisions, that the soldiers were frequently upon one-sixth allowance; hence he concluded that they would soon be obliged to evacuate that country, and that the evacuation of Andalusia would probably soon follow. He also spoke of Napoleon's popularity among the superior officers in a very different manner from what I had heard from others; and if he was correct, the control and obedience in which he keeps them, shews great ability, as well as firmness of character.

We reached Urnieta before dark, and I was quartered at the extremity of the town, where my reception from my landlady was so uncouth, that I was obliged to threaten

threaten her with applying for other quarters, in which case she would have a French officer billetted on her; a threat she did not at all seem to relish. On my return from procuring provisions and forage, I was quite surprised at the change in this lady's manner, for she was now civil in the extreme. After dinner she entered the room, and first fastening the door, asked me if it was really true that I was an English officer, as somebody had told her; and when I answered in the affirmative, and related the manner of my being made prisoner, her sensibility got the better of her; her eyes gradually filled, and at last she burst into a flood of tears. When I asked her to sell and dress me a fowl for next day's march, the offer of payment made her think I was still offended; and to convince her of the contrary, I was obliged to accept some fowls and ham "of her own curing." She also

begged

begged permission to introduce her brother, who, she said, had been quite melancholy since the entrance of the French, and that the sight of an English officer would be highly gratifying and reviving to him; he accordingly made his appearance, and his deportment was such as to command respect and create confidence. He regretted that while England was so generously shedding her blood and expending her treasures for the support of Spanish liberty, she had neglected sending officers and arms to Biscay, for that, to his knowledge, there were sixty thousand stout, determined fellows registered, and ready for organization at the first favourable moment. He also mentioned the ports where arms might be landed with safety, as well as those which should be avoided, as being strictly watched by the enemy. At the same time he drew a topographical sketch of the country, pointing

pointing out the passes most capable of defence; adding that, though the Biscayners wanted no other stimulus than their patriotism, they would be sure to find ample pecuniary reward, by the capture of the treasure every day passing from France into Spain. Before we parted, I concerted some arrangements, in case a future chance should cause me to land on that coast.

January 17. I was waked early in the morning by the sound of the *tocsin*, announcing a fire, and on inquiry, learned that the town-house had been set on fire by the French soldiers. As my host told me that it was very unsafe to walk alone in the streets, even in the day, from the inveteracy of the inhabitants towards the French, for one of whom I might be taken, he offered to accompany me through the town; and I found that his caution was not unnecessary, as we met several scattered groups of sullen

and

and apparently irritated people in the streets.

About a league from the town we fell in with a convoy of sick and wounded, belonging to the army of Portugal, going into France. Here, from an elevation, we caught a fine view of the Bay of Biscay, the port of Saint Sebastian (about half a league distant), and those of St. Andero, Santona, Guetaria, and Bilbao, all in sight, being situated on a curve of the coast.

We reached Irun to breakfast; and as we were to separate here, I invited sixteen of my *compagnons de voyage* to partake of as good a breakfast as could be procured in this miserable place, the last town of Spain: on quitting which, there being no longer any necessity for an escort, each individual of the convoy was free to push on as he thought fit for the place of his destination.

After

After crossing a wooden bridge over the Bidassoa, which separates Spain from France, I at length arrived on the territory of *la grande nation*. Here my baggage was examined, at a kind of custom-house, where the duties are paid on merchandize passing from Spain into France. This ceremony over, I was about to pursue my route, but was stopped by a *gend'arme*, who demanded my *feuille de route*; and on my saying I had none, refused to let me proceed. A Polish Major just then coming up, offered to pass me on: but this I declined, fearing he might esteem it a great favour, and be inclined to honour me with more of his company than would be agreeable; I therefore returned back to Irun, and applied to the commandant for the necessary paper, which he did not think himself authorized to grant, although the corporal of a guard might have gone

farther without straining his responsibility. I however met the Lieutenant commanding the convoy, who accompanied me to the barrier; and shewing my name in the *feuille de route*, I was allowed to proceed to St. Jean de Luz, about eight miles distant, and over a heavy road. Here I was billetted at the house of two ancient maiden ladies, who every moment expressed their dread of a visit from the Spaniards; but as I assured them that their virtue and property were equally safe in that respect, I succeeded in tranquillizing their fears.

According to agreement made at Irun, I met Monsieur Pole and the Swiss Commissary at dinner at the Porte Impériale, an inn of considerable repute, but which fell far short of the idea that had been given me of it. Our dinner was made up of scraps, consisting of the legs of a salt goose, and the legs and neck of a fowl, with some

some vegetables. The wine was little better than vinegar: added to which, the whole was thrown on the table as if it fell from Heaven by chance. My companions praised every thing, exclaiming, "*quel "honheur! nous voilà en France!*" but for my own part I could not help observing, that if such was the fare I had to expect in France, I should prefer returning into Spain. I however at last succeeded in procuring a little good Claret, which in some degree compensated for the other deficiencies.

Before continuing my journey through France, I shall offer a few observations on the province of Biscay, and the road through the Pyrennees, to cross which it took us three days most fatiguing march.

Biscay is formed of three subdivisions, *viz*. Guipuscoa, Beisorio, and La Montana. The only carriage road through the Pyren-

nees, on this side, is between St. Jean de Luz, through Irùn to Vittoria, and was at this time almost impassable, from the continual passage of vehicles and the total want of repairs. Between Vittoria and Irun the road is skirted by numerous villages, wearing the appearance of industry and comfort.

Biscay has twenty-one considerable towns, of which the principal is Bilboa, possessing a good port and considerable trade,—with an air so pure that it may be called the Montpelier of Spain; patients, therefore, particularly with chronical complaints, are ordered here by the faculty. The extent of the territory of Alava, which formerly was included in the province of Biscay, but is now united to Old Castile, is fourteen leagues east and west, and ten north and south. Guipuscoa, which is considerably the largest of the divisions of

Biscay,

Biscay, is eighteen leagues east and west, and twelve north and south; its surface is composed of lofty mountains with narrow passes, and inhabited by a brave and warlike people, who should, above all the inhabitants of the Peninsula, call the attention of the British government in the present contest. This division has ten leagues of coast, in which there are several good ports, *viz.* St. Sebastian, Passages, &c. Those of Guetaria, Orio, Zaraus, Zumaya, Deva, and Motrico, though of less consideration, are accessible to vessels of a certain size; and indeed it seems astonishing that England neglected occupying these ports at the commencement of her alliance with Spain, for their possession would have been of inestimable value at different periods of the war.

Besides the three divisions already noticed, there is a territory included in Bis-

cay called the Four Towns ; each of these divisions is of a triangular shape, and they all join each other. When Cæsar invaded Spain, in the century before the Christian era, the whole of Biscay formed one province under the name of Cantabria, and its inhabitants in the fastnesses of their mountains defied the armies of the Romans ; and aided by their neighbours the Asturians, and by the Gallicians, carried desolation into the subdued provinces. Although Augustus entered Avala and Guipuscoa with a formidable army, and defeated the Cantabrians and their allies in the plains, they still held out in their mountains, and were never entirely subdued. The Asturians, after sustaining a long and bloody siege in Oviedo, surrendered ; but the Gallicians, surrounded on all sides, preferred death to subjection, and were exterminated in the most desperate and unequal conflicts.

The

The Cantabrians, in want of provisions, determined to die by each others hands, and a great number put this desperate design into execution; those who remained harassed the Romans by a predatory warfare; and although Fabricius erected forts in the mountains, and adopted every other means to subdue them, after a century of glorious struggle, they succeeded in expelling their invaders, and continued to enjoy undisturbed liberty until a century after the establishment of the Moors in Spain. From what I saw of them the modern Biscayners have not degenerated from their Cantabrian ancestors in firmness and courage.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Bay of Biscay....Bayonne....Route to Bourdeaux.

On the 18th of January I quitted St. Jean de Luz for Bayonne. The Bay of Biscay presented its vast expanse of waters on the left, and called up the reflection that these waters alone separated me from all I held dear in life, and that with a favourable breeze I could reach the coasts of England in four days. Two British cruisers which appeared in the offing, did not fail to add to my regret at the impossibility of realizing my visions. After a long and wishful look and many a heavy sigh, I pursued my journey, but could not recover my spirits for the rest of the day.

The road between St. Jean de Luz and Bayonne

Bayonne is very hilly, and was now much broken up by numbers of wheel carriages, passing to and from Spain. On my arrival at the latter town, I found all the inns so crowded, that no accommodation was to be had in them; I therefore presented my letters of introduction to Messrs. Dehne and Bourdehus, extensive merchants, who were extremely civil; and not only procured me lodgings, but insisted on my dining with them. I spent the evening, also, agreeably in their society.

January 19, I waited on General Sols, the commandant, who received me with the politeness of the old French school. After some conversation he shewed me a letter from General Beliard, who it seems wished to follow up his persecution, by recommending the strictest *surveillance* over me, being, according to his expression, "a dangerous "character." Fortunately however Ge-

neral Sols had made inquiries respecting me of some of the officers of the escort, whose answers did away all the unfavourable impressions that might have been made by General Beliard's letter. I also waited on General Quesnel, commanding the staff, for whom I had a letter from General Sebastiani, and met with a frigidly polite reception.

January 20. Having received intimation from Marshal Bessières, Duc d'Istrie, that he desired to see me, I accordingly waited on him, and was received with great *fierté;* but after some conversation his manners altered, and became most gentlemanlike. He mentioned the desertion of Captain A.... who had been made prisoner with me, and who had escaped from an escort in the North of Spain, in a manner that gave me reason to fear that myself and another officer might in consequence be deprived of

our

our parole. I therefore avoided entering into the merits of the case, and only replied, *c'est un malheur, mais il faut attendre à ces choses.* My subsequent conversation with the Duke however removed all my fears, for having introduced subjects with which I happened to be well acquainted, he took an interest in me, and invited me to dinner the following day. On my return to my lodgings, I received a visit from Colonel F.... and the commander of the convoy, who behaved in the most handsome manner, and we made out a satisfactory statement of Captain A...'s escape.

January 21. According to invitation, I proceeded to dine with the Duc d'Istrie, in full uniform. He was very attentive, gave me an excellent dinner and wines, particularly Madeira, of which he had opened a case purposely for me. Our conversation turned principally on the events in Spain, in which he appeared,

peared, as might be expected, much interested. On retiring he begged me to call on him, before I quitted Bayonne next day, and he would give me some letters to his friends at Bourdeaux, which would at least ensure me a good dinner and excellent wine; this of course I did not fail to do, when he not only presented me several letters but also an hundred louis-d'or, offering to furnish me with more if I wished; but I declined his obliging offer, and we parted with mutual regret.

During the few days I remained at Bayonne, I visited the environs, and particularly that part in which were several American vessels, lately confiscated, in consequence of the Berlin decree, and re-purchased by the Americans. There were also in the river seven American built schooners, under the French Imperial flag, ready for sailing, and which had been equipped to make a run to the Isle of France with troops, and

to

to bring home the produce of the island. The crews of these vessels were mostly composed of boys, raised by a recent maritime conscription, and of whom it was doubtless intended to make seamen in this voyage *de longue course.* I felt no small satisfaction, while viewing these schooners, in knowing that the Isle of France was already in our possession, and that the intention of this expedition was therefore entirely frustrated.

The town of Bayonne is about three miles from the sea, at the junction of the little rivers Adour and Neve, which divide it into three parts; the entrance of the port is narrow, and a very dangerous bar crosses it, on which, in westerly winds, there is a most furious surf; but which is not without its advantage, for it shelters the port towards the sea. The commerce of this town was formerly very considerable, but the war and the anti-commercial decrees of Buonaparte,

naparte, have left it only an insignificant coasting trade.

I must not forget to observe, for the benefit *des gourmands*, that Bayonne is celebrated for its hams; and I could not quit it without satisfying myself whether it deserved this celebrity. I accordingly had one drest under my own inspection, and as a considerable degree of science is required in dressing a ham, I am sure the lovers of good eating will not be sorry to have my receipt. Boil it in hock, a quarter of an hour to each pound; then put it in an oven and bake it another quarter of an hour to the same weight; and I will venture to say, the epicures will acknowledge that nothing can be more delicious. While I am on the subject of cookery, I may be pardoned for mentioning an anecdote which comes à propos. In a passage to South America, a confident epicure who was continually giving

us

us receipts for dressing the albicore, bonettas and sharks, we occasionally took, and as continually expatiating on the excellence of the dolphin (of which we had not yet caught one) when properly drest, I begged him to give me his receipt, which he did at full length, and when he had finished his tedious detail, I told him my receipt began in a very different manner. After his expressing much anxiety to know my plan, and keeping him long in suspence, I told him I always followed Mrs. Glass's receipt, which begins with, *First take.** While

* On the following day we actually did take a dolphin, and the dressing of it was left to me. I ordered it to be simply boiled in salt and water, and to be stewed up with abundance of melted butter in a sauceboat, with plenty of Cayenne pepper to mix with it; and though this was so simple a process, I found it was more universally relished than that of the officer's, which was very complicated, and attended with great trouble.

While at Bayonne, and happening to be in company with Colonel Natalis of the Engineers, I observed an officer regarding me steadily, and who at last asked me if I had ever been in Egypt? On my answering in the affirmative he recalled to my recollection my having been sent in advance, with a detachment of British troops and some Arnauts, by order of Colonel Stewart, when we surprised and captured a convoy of twenty-two boats, near Ramaniah, which were conveying stores to the French army. It was a most fortunate capture for our officers, who were almost barefooted, for we found in the prize, boots and shoes, with which we immediately fitted ourselves. This officer, who was in one of the boats, expressed his gratitude for the protection the English afforded him against the savage ferocity of our Turkish allies.

Having received a *feuille de route*, on the

the 27th I commenced my journey to Bourdeaux on horseback. The road to St. Vincent, the first stage, is a deep sand, and was now almost impassable, being so much broken up by the passage of waggons, &c. St. Vincent contains nothing worthy of notice, and St. Juan, the second stage, consists only of a few straggling houses. At the latter I put up for the night, and found the landlord of the inn civil, and more particularly attentive when he learned my country. He provided me with a tolerable supper, and I had nothing to complain of except a legion of rats, that amused themselves dancing about my room all night.

January 28. As I found the high road crowded with soldiers and carts, whose rencontre every moment was far from agreeable, I inquired of my landlord if I could not avoid it, and learned that by crossing the

the country about two leagues, I should get into the old road, which would shorten the distance to Bourdeaux, and that, though deep, I should be able to get on very well on horseback. He also offered to send his son to shew me the way, and having taken a glass of brandy with the obliging old gentleman, and received his *bon voyage*, I proceeded across a heath, and through a little wood, till I reached the road, where my guide left me, and I entered into an immense forest of firs. Most of the trees, I observed, had large slices of the bark stripped off from top to bottom for the purpose of procuring the turpentine.

I soon arrived at a beautifully romantic village, called Castels, situated in a ravine, near a cascade. The houses were of wood, and the whole had a neat and cheerful appearance, which, as well as the civility of the *aubergiste*, induced me, though it was only

only noon, to rest here the remainder of the day. It was the fête of the patron saint of the village, and groups of peasants were collected, dancing and running for small prizes. The neat and simple costume of the paysannes in particular struck me. My landlord, however, assured me with a sigh, that this appearance of cheerfulness covered a great degree of misery, from the total stagnation of trade, leaving them no means of exporting the produce of the pine forests, in which consisted their sole riches. At the same time, the price of corn had nearly doubled, and sugar and coffee, which in this part of the country long habit had almost rendered necessaries of life, from twenty to twenty-four sols the pound, were now five and six francs. Here I could not help reflecting, that sugar and coffee, being luxuries, might at all events be dispensed with, and therefore their high price

could only be felt by the superior class; but the dearness of grain, on the contrary, falls entirely on the lower order, for grain is an article of absolute necessity, that cannot be dispensed with. I may here also observe, that the exorbitant price of sugar and coffee reducing the consumption, reduced the revenues and prosperity of the country, in a proportion that the framers of the decrees of Berlin and Milan seem not to have been aware of.

With respect to the produce of the pine forests in this department, I received some information here, which I trust will not be found uninteresting.

The species of pine which composes the forests of this and the neighbouring department, is that named in France the Pin Maritime, which thrives in the most sandy soils. When the tree has attained from three to five feet circumference, a hole is bored

at

at the bottom of the trunk, an inch deep and three inches in diameter; below which a small excavation is made in the ground to receive the resinous sap of the tree, which distils from it. The wound is made at the commencement of spring, and is enlarged upwards several times during the summer, and in successive years. The substance received into the reservoir is boiled to a certain consistence, to form what is called in commerce *brac suc;* and is converted into resin, by the following simple process. While boiling, it is suffered to run from the boiler into a wooden trough, filled with water, from whence it is again returned into the boiler, and this continual transversement gradually combines the water and the *brac*, until by their intimate union they become resin.

Tar is the produce of the sap of the pine, combined with resin by the action of fire.

Besides resin and tar, the pine affords turpentine, and lampblack, which is produced by the combustion of the resin.

On the 29th I resumed my journey through a very deep sand, which doubtless was the reason for changing the great road, and reached a place, called Harrie, consisting of a few houses, where I baited the horses, and again proceeding, arrived in the evening at La Bohat, the whole day's journey being through pine forests. Though my fare at the auberge was far from sumptuous, the civility of my landlord and his wife, who produced the best their humble but romantic mansion afforded, reconciled me to remain here the night. They expressed their surprise at seeing a person of my appearance travelling in so wretched a country, and I found next morning that as they seldom had such visitors, they were determined

determined to make the most of me, and to be well paid for their compliments to myself and my country. I at first thought of remonstrating on the exorbitance of their charges, but when I recollected that the honour of England was concerned, I determined to pay as they charged, *comme un Milord Anglois;* a title which the innkeepers in France not seeming to understand properly, generally act as if they supposed lord to mean *l'or*, and consequently that an Englishman, being a heap of gold, ought not to be let to pass without a handsome contribution.

January 30. This day's journey lay through a more open country, but very swampy; with numbers of small sheep scattered over it, jumping from hillock to hillock to graze. The boys who herded them at first greatly surprised me, by the apparent length and slenderness of their

legs; but on approaching, I found they were mounted on stilts, fastened with a strap to each thigh, by which means they were elevated three or four feet from the ground, and were enabled to walk dry over the little pools of water. As the stilts do not sink deep in the sandy soil, they manage them with great dexterity, running and jumping with vast activity; and have also a greater command in the superintendence of their little flocks. While thus occupied, they are also employed in knitting stockings. I this night slept at a place called Bard, and in the morning commenced my last day's journey to Bourdeaux.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Bourdeaux.... Comparison of the former and present state of this city .... Oysters.....Theatre.....Modern Frenchmen.

The road on approaching Bourdeaux became excessively bad, but the country was highly cultivated; nevertheless there was a general appearance of declining prosperity. The merchants' country houses, which in a state of flourishing commerce are usually conspicuous for their neatness, seemed now generally neglected, and the châteaux presented a still more desolate appearance.

On my arrival at Bourdeaux I proceeded to the Hôtel de Funal, on the Chartrons, which commands a fine and extensive view

up the Garonne. I had formerly visited this city, when "commerce proudly flou-"rished in the State;" the river was then covered with a forest of masts the whole length of the Chartrons, which extends four miles in the form of a crescent, and its quays presented a scene of bustle and activity never to be forgotten. What a contrast did it now offer! The few ships in the river were unrigged and their hulls rotting; and a miserably dirty sloop of war displayed the imperial colours as a guard ship, on board which, however, all the ceremonial and etiquette of a man of war seemed to be enforced. Not a boat in activity, except those that ply on the Dordogne and Garonne for passengers; in short, the port and the quays evinced a total stagnation of business.

Hearing that M. Crochard was in the hotel, I paid him a visit, and received from

from him instructions as to the most agreeable way of living at Bourdeaux. I ordered my dinner according to his advice, commencing with a dish of oysters, which are here of a very fine quality, and found the Sauterne, which by prèscription is the only wine drank with these fish, deserving of its celebrity. It may be useful to some of my readers, whose appetites are feeble, to know that oysters are an excellent whetter, taking them immediately before dinner, and not exceeding a dozen at the most, with a small proportion of lemon juice squeezed into each.—In the evening I accompanied Monsieur and Madame Crochard to the theatre, to see the *Médecin malgré lui* of Molière, which was followed by a ballet; but it being Saturday, which is the worst day in the week for the receipts of the theatre, the house was very thinly attended.

February 1. In the morning I strolled about

about the town, and as Bourdeaux is one of the best places in France to get equipped *à l'Anglaise,* I called at a tailor's to order some clothes, of which I stood much in need. I also visited a coachmaker's repository, having some idea of purchasing a carriage, but the assortment was chiefly confined to cabriolets, which did not suit me. Like all his countrymen, the coachmaker neglected his business, *pour causer,* and instead of an eulogium on his carriages, entertained me with a violent philippic against the commercial measures of the moment; and certainly the daily bankruptcies of the first houses in the country, in consequence of the decrees of Buonaparte, are sufficient causes for the complaints of the mercantile class.

In the evening I again went to the theatre, which was now brilliantly attended, the Sabbath being the day of amusement

as

as well as of rest from labour in France. The piece was *Cendrillon*, taken from the story so well known to children of the Little Glass Slipper. The music was in general light and cheerful, and among the airs was the " *bon voyage à Monsieur du Molet*," at this moment a favourite popular tune throughout France, and of the same stamp as those airs which in England get possession of all classes for a few months, until some fresh nonsense supersedes them; such are Nancy Dawson, the Grinder, Yankee Doodle, &c. to which airs many add verses of their own composition.

The carriage which conveyed *Cindrellon* to the ball was drawn by real ponies, and the fat coachman and lackeys came out of a hole on one side of the stage, intended to denote their metamorphosis from rats; the machinery was indeed superlative, and the whole had an admirable effect. The concluding

concluding piece was *Montano et Stephano.* Bourdeaux at this time possessed Mesdames Clairville and Folleville, with Mortelli, all superior performers in the grand opera. In the petit opera it had Mesdames Begran and Lorraine, as first dancers. Of the men Ferdinand was considered the first, and Chou Chou the second; the former was engaged for the opera at Vienna. It is said there is much more difficulty in finding good performers for the comedy and petit opera than for the grand, for which there are always abundance of candidates. The salary of the first men dancers, in the petit opera, is ten thousand francs a year.

In the course of the following day (Feb. 2) I visited several parts of the town, and engaged an English party to dine at the Hôtel du Prince, *ci-devant* Hôtel d'Angleterre, a name which the proprietor found it advisabe to

to change in the present government mania against whatever bears any relation to our country, but which he means to restore when this frenzy ceases. Our dinner was uncommonly good, and the wine so delicious, that several of the party who had long been obliged to put up with the wretched Spanish trash, did such credit to the Bourdeaux, that its effects soon began to appear in their merry pranks, which astonished the people of the house, who were not at all accustomed to the freaks of an English drinking party. Indeed a Frenchman, who is ten times more volatile when sober than an Englishman, becomes stupidly serious as the liquor mounts. This trait of national character is doubtless owing to the independent ideas instilled into us from the cradle, and which gives to every individual a peculiarity of manner and of mind. All Frenchmen, on the

the contrary, resemble each other; being unused to think for themselves, their conversation is made up of quaint sayings and hackneyed bons mots, stupid beyond conception. The sayings of a great man, who has the reputation of possessing *de l'esprit*, are repeated to satiety. In short, the manners, dress, and address of a Frenchman are equally disgusting, with the exception of the few remains of the old *noblesse*, who retain the polished manners of their order, so totally opposite to those of the *parvenus* of the present day.

February 3. In the morning I waited in uniform on General Boisvin, the Commandant de Place, and was shewn into a room by a servant; here I waited some time, and no General appearing, I again sent the servant to announce me, and to inquire if it was convenient for the General to receive me, adding, that my visit was merely of

ceremony,

ceremony, and that I had nothing particular to say. On his appearance he seemed surprised, not having been informed by the servant who I was, and the uniform of a British general officer seemed to have an imposing effect; besides, I assumed a distant and dignified air, which made him perceive that I was displeased at being kept waiting, for which he blundered out an apology as well as his abilities would admit. On retiring he had, however, the civility to attend me to the carriage.

Having disencumbered myself of my uniform, I called on some of my acquaintances; and also on Monsieur Lynch, the Mayor of the city, descended from an Irish family, and of most gentlemanly manners. From him I went to visit Monsieur Pierre Pierre, the commissary of police, a personage of no small consequence in a French town, and whose good will it is necessary for

for all strangers, like myself on sufferance only, to conciliate. He immediately told me the number of bottles we had drank the evening before, with the whole particulars of our conversation, and appeared extremely proud of his *espionnage;* for he seemed to have the vanity to think, that because he received information of whatever passed in all companies, public or private, he thence derived as much consequence as if he had been admitted to them. To humour him, I expressed my astonishment at the correctness of his information, although I was very sure that he received it from an American doctor, who by making himself useful to all the English passing through Bourdeaux, was always invited to their parties; and although it was well known that he was employed by the police, it was advisable to keep on good terms with him, as a denunciation, however false, would probably

probably have been productive of a lodging in a *cachot*, without any investigation; besides, he was capable of being extremely useful to a stranger, knowing every thing and every body in Bourdeaux.

After paying several other visits, I dined off a boiled leg of mutton and turnips, a dish I had not seen for so long a time, that I almost fancied myself in England. At dinner I met with Captain Geils of the 3d guards, Captain Reynolds of the 83d, and a quarter-master of the 4th, all taken in Spain, and the two former severely wounded. As they were very inquisitive about affairs in Spain, and the wine being excellent, we made a late sitting.

February 4. Strolling through the streets in the forenoon, I observed a very pretty girl standing at a shop door, whom, *pour passer le temps*, I accosted with a compliment on her beauty, which she received as

most pretty girls do, and more particularly French grisettes, as if it was only her due. Soon perceiving that I was an Englishman, she launched into an eulogium on the nation, but at the same time observing that we had faults, of which not the least was our neglect of the *beau sexe;* then changing the subject with abrupt vivacity, she observed that my coat was rather tarnished, and recommended its being scowered, which her father, whose trade it was, would speedily perform. I allowed her to shew me into a back apartment, where the old gentleman was at work, to whom I promised to send the coat as soon as I got another from the taylor, this being the only one I at present possessed. "*Tenez,*" replied he, "*en voici un qui vous ira à mer-*" *veille;*" and though the cut was rather *outré,* I put it on and left him mine, "to "come out," as he expressed it, "entirely "new!"

" new!" From the repeated assurances of the father and daughter that the coat fitted me *à merveille*, I thought I might pass without notice; but I had scarcely quitted the shop when I met with three English gentlemen, who burst into a horse-laugh at my costume; and, it being Carnival time, observed, " that I was already drest for the " masquerade." Although I joined in the laugh, I did not choose to expose myself to a repetition of it, and on reaching the hotel immediately sent for my coat, but was told that it was in the tub: and the taylor not having finished either of those I had ordered, I was under the necessity of confining myself to the house for the rest of the day. As our officers had taken up their quarters at a hotel opposite, and were in the article of dress even worse off than myself (having only the old torn regimentals on their backs), I invited them to keep me

in countenance, and we passed the day together in playing at piquet and laughing at each others dress. In the evening I sent to desire the company of my friend the scowerer, who immediately arrived, and afforded me much amusement. Knowing the character of this description of Frenchmen, I proposed to send an excellent supper to his house, in order to have the pleasure of passing the evening with him and his lovely daughter, with which proposition he immediately complied, and retired to make the necessary preparations. I shortly followed him to his apartments, which were very neatly furnished. The young lady was very entertaining, and the old gentleman so complaisant as soon to retire, and leave me to enjoy her fascinating conversation till late in the evening. I afterwards learnt that this man had acted a conspicuous part in the revolu-

tionary

tionary committees, and during a part of that blood-stained period was the terror of Bourdeaux.

February 5. The next morning, according to appointment, I went, accompanied by the American doctor as Cicerone, to inspect the curiosities of Bourdeaux.

We first visited the military hospital, in which were several English officers, particularly a Mr. Grant, of the 24th regiment, who had been badly wounded at the battle of Talavera. He was in the same ward with several French officers; for in the French service an officer who reports himself sick is obliged to go immediately to the hospital, which effectually prevents their attempting to evade their duty by pretending illness: and it would be well if some strong regulation was adopted in our service, to prevent the numberless abuses which take place in this respect.

In the course of our walk we passed a

very fine Roman triumphal arch, disfigured by modern ornaments; and on inquiring of my companion, (who in whatever regarded the things or people of Bourdeaux was a perfect Asmodeus) he informed me that the arch had been erected to Trajan, but that the modern decorations were attached to it when Buonaparte was at Bourdeaux, it being expected that he would pass under it, which he however declined; whether from a modest diffidence with respect to his equality with the Roman Emperor, or as some people said, from the conviction of his own superiority, which caused him to despise this kind of half homage, I cannot undertake to decide.*

Bourdeaux formerly the capital of Guienne, and

* I afterwards understood the real cause was its not having been erected from the foundation expressly for himself.

and at present the chief town of the department of the Gironde, is considered in the first class of French cities, and contains upwards of one hundred thousand inhabitants. It had formerly an university and an academy of arts and sciences, a court of admiralty, &c. In 1642, it was granted a parliament, by Louis XI. Its public establishments at present are, a lyceum, the most magnificent theatre in France, and a mint. It is the residence of a prefect, and has a criminal tribunal and a tribunal of appeal, for the departments of Charente, Dordogne, and Gironde.

I this morning accompanied Monsieur Cabanis to his country seat, about two leagues from Bourdeaux, which is pleasantly situated, commanding a fine and extensive view, but greatly neglected. He informed me, that the want of a market for the produce, reduced the value of the vine-

yards to less than the expences of their cultivation, and that he would gladly let his house and domain rent free, on condition of keeping the vineyards in order. In many of the walks I observed snares for taking woodcocks, and one got entangled while I was there.

It being Sunday the theatre was crowded as usual, and I must confess I am not so rigid as to see any thing contrary either to religion or good morals, in attending this amusement on the Sabbath. In our protestant countries Sunday is a day of moping tiresomeness, yet surely we may observe with Sterne, "that the Great Father of all "does not expect us to vex and shorten a "life, short and vexatious enough already; "that he who is infinitely happy cannot "envy us our enjoyments, or that a Being, "so infinitely kind, would grudge a mourn-"ful traveller the short rest and refresh-"ments, necessary to support his spirits

"through

" through the stages of a weary pilgrimage;
" or that he would call him to a severe
" reckoning, because in his way he had
" hastily snatched at some little fugacious
" pleasure, merely to sweeten this uneasy
" journey of life, and reconcile him to the
" ruggedness of the road, and the many
" hard jostlings he is sure to meet with."

The entertainment this evening at the theatre, was, however, analagous to the day, for it was the story of Susannah and the Elders, metamorphosed into a pantomime. The two antient sinners attempt to accomplish their purpose on the chaste damsel, while she is in the bath, but being foiled, they denounce her guilty of a *faux-pas*, and wickedly swear that they found her under a tree in an awkward situation. On this evidence she is condemned, and about to be executed, when the angel Gabriel descends and advises the judges to examine each

each old man separately, when their stories not agreeing, the damsel is released, and her accusers are sentenced to be stoned to death. The music of this entertainment was exquisite, the scenery superb, and the descent and ascent of the Archangel very well managed. Indeed it was impossible not to admire the ingenuity with which so serious a subject was brought on the stage in the shape of a pantomime. A Mademoiselle Byrom acted Susannah, who appeared a chaste actress, at least on the stage. A melo-drama succeeded the pantomime. This is a new species of theatrical entertainment, composed of a mixture of comedy, opera and pantomime, and is at present quite the rage in France.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Bourdeaux....Masquerade....Valet de place, &c.

From the theatre I went to sup with the American doctor, who had invited a party to meet me; the formality and ceremony with which I was treated, did away all idea of comfort, and I was glad to be relieved by pleading an engagement to the *bal masqué*, where I was fully recompensed. The price of admission was very trifling, and the hire of a dress only thirty sols. I first chose the character of a Benedictine Monk, which I thought so easy to support, that there was no fear of my being discovered; but I enjoyed myself so much, and the scene was altogether so novel, that I forgot the gravity of my character, and was soon discovered

to

to be an *Anglois!* My fellow officers, who were also present, were soon known, and we were obliged to accept numberless invitations to drink Champagne-punch from our French acquaintances, who paid many liberal compliments to the British character. I now changed my dress for that of a Miller, and got on very well for some time, until I met by chance one of our officers, whose mask was off, and who was tormented by a tall priest following him all over the room. When I came up to him my friend was in close conversation with a pretty orange girl, and the priest looking at him fixedly, uttered a deep groan; "d—n the "priest," said the Englishman, forgetting himself, "he persecutes me every where:" at which I could not help laughing aloud, and my laugh again discovered me. Round the lobby were coffee rooms with all kinds of refreshments, besides several convenient private

private apartments elegantly fitted up. I accompanied my countrymen through all the rooms, and it seemed as if the pleasure we expressed gratified the whole assembly. Among the most entertaining groups were thirteen boys, who exhibited a singular dance on stilts four feet from the ground, on which they kept time and performed the most difficult figures with the exactness of opera dancers. A boy of eight years old was the leader of this amusing group, and when any mistake was committed, he would frown on the defaulters, and put his finger to his nose, so as to intimate forcibly, " be- " ware how you make a second blunder !" At five o'clock I retired, with a sufficiency of pleasing reflections to last me a twelve-month ;—nor shall I ever forget the *bal masqué* at Bourdeaux !

February 7. The following morning I accompanied M. Crochard to a milliner's to purchase

purchase some cravats; but being no great judge of muslin, I requested a pretty shop girl to select some for me, and bring them to my hotel, where shortly after my return she made her appearance. There was an interesting seriousness in her manner that induced me to inquire into the cause of so uncommon an appearance in a French milliner of nineteen; and I learnt that she had lost both her father and mother (who were of the lesser noblesse) by the guillotine, in the revolution; that about a year back she had formed an attachment to a young man, who returned her love, and with whom she hoped to be happy the remainder of her days, and to be in some measure recompensed for the loss of her parents at so early an age; but that her lover was drawn for the conscription a few months since, and sent to Spain, where he added one to the numberless victims of Buonaparte's ambition,

tion, having been killed in battle. She told her tale with a degree of melancholy sweetness and sensibility, whilst the tears forced their way in spite of her, that not a little affected me. While she was recounting her story the American doctor entered, and when she withdrew he bore testimony to its truth, being well acquainted with her misfortunes.

On my arrival at Bourdeaux, the doctor had recommended me a *laquais de place*, who, according to his own account, was unequalled by any of the tribe. Amongst his other qualifications was that of dressing horses; and though his appearance bespoke very little of the groom, I took him at his word, and entrusted him with the care of mine. He was a grey-headed old fellow, with a pig-tail; two curls at each side; silk stockings much soiled; black velvet breeches, and

and a peagreen coat, with standing collar, and slack sleeves; in short, he answered completely to the description of the squires that attended the ladies in the days of chivalry. After a day or two I recollected that it was possible this piece of antiquity might not be so *au fait* in the management of horses as he pretended, and on visiting the stable I found my doubts changed into certainty, for although there were fifty-nine empty stalls, the stupid fellow had put my horse and mare into the sixtieth; nor had they been rubbed down since my arrival, he conceiving it quite enough if they had *assez à boire et à manger*. I immediately turned the sorry groom off and could not resist abusing him, when my landlord called me aside and advised me to beware and say little, as he was a spy of the police, and might do me mischief. This information induced me to make further inquiries, when I found by a female

of

of the house that I was surrounded by spies who doubtless reported all my actions and words.

I this day dined with one of our officers and the quarter-master, who towards the evening, as the wine began to operate, became so laughably amusing that I persuaded him to accompany me to a French party. Though he had risen from the ranks, he had a perfect confidence in his good breeding, and to shew it off made such strange gestures, kissed the ladies hands, and scraped and bowed till he became quite ridiculous. As his compliments were paid in English they remained unanswered; and the silence of an old lady, to whom he particularly addressed himself, I persuaded him was owing to deafness, when he bawled so loudly in her ear, that the poor woman was near going into a fit. At last dancing commenced, and, in spite of all my entreaties,

he resolved upon taking out a partner; but being unused to waxed floors, his heels were soon tripped up, nor was he able to get again on his legs, for as often as he attempted to rise the slippery floor again brought him down, and thus he remained, to the great amusement of the company, who exclaimed, "*Dieu, qu'il est* "*drôle !*" I proposed dancing round this fallen hero, which was immediately agreed to, and I never saw people enjoy any thing more: one of the young ladies observing, that, "certainly *Messieurs les Anglois* "were, from their singularities, always the "life and spirit of the company."

I had now become quite the lion* of Bourdeaux, and not a day passed without a party being given on my account. These pleasurable

* *Lion*, according to the English fashionable imagination, is a person who all are curious to see.

pleasurable days were however approaching towards their termination, for General Boivin began to look on me with an evil eye, probably from not being invited to these entertainments; for although his pretensions to *esprit* were very high, he was in reality so silly that people did not choose to be annoyed by his company.

One morning I was not very agreeably surprised with a visit from the Adjutant de Place, a Pole, to inform me that I must immediately depart from Bourdeaux. I begged this officer to accompany me to the General, to which he consented, and we stepped into a hackney coach. The General, who was followed by a large greyhound, which seemed a great favourite, received me with an air of displeasure, and demanded the cause of my remaining so long at Bourdeaux? Instead of answering his question I exclaimed, "*Dieu, quel joli*

" *chien!*" and begged permission to inquire if it belonged to him? Upon this his countenance immediately brightened, and he answered, " *oui, monsieur, et j'en ai trois* " *autres.*" I then told him I was fond of dogs *à la folie,* and should esteem it a particular favour if he would allow me to see see them. " *Volontiers,*" was the reply, and he conducted me to the yard, where they were passed in review, and I of course did not fail to praise their beauty and points, although neither was very conspicuous. The General next shewed me his stud, which I also pretended to admire, and begged to be gratified by his permitting me to mount one of his chargers, that I might judge better of his movements. A horse was accordingly got ready with a demi-peak, and I made him shew off to the best advantage, with which the General was so satisfied, and pleased with my compliments, that

that he forgot, or at least made no farther mention of my quitting Bourdeaux, and we parted with mutual compliments.

The two succeeding days passed without hearing any thing from the General; but on the third he sent for me, and informed me that he had received a letter from the Minister of War, mentioning me " as a " dangerous character," and directing him to send me off immediately with an escort; he therefore recommended my departure immediately, to avoid the disagreeable attendance of a *gend'arme.* I told him that I should certainly set out next day, being obliged to wait for my linen from the wash. " Monsieur," said he, " a warrior should " always be ready to put his foot in the " stirrup." As I saw that he wished to inspire me with a high idea of his military character, I replied, " certainly, Monsieur " le Général, that must always be the case

" with an officer who has seen so much " service as you, and who has also such " horses at command."—" Do you know, " Monsieur," said he, " that I travelled from " Germany hither in the depth of winter, " and never thought anything of it!"—" I " have no doubt of it, Monsieur le Géné- " ral, but your situation and mine are very " different: you travelled in a good warm " carriage, with all the comforts attached " to the rank of a French general; while " I have made a long journey through " Spain as a prisoner, suffering many pri- " vations, and extremely unwell with a " spitting of blood, owing to the bruises " I received when taken; therefore you " surely cannot deem me unreasonable in " asking to remain until to-morrow;" to which he consented, and we parted.

In the evening, accompanied by the American doctor, I went privately to see some

some Portuguese, who had been arrested at the commencement of the war with Portugal, and detained as hostages. Our visit was obliged to be secret, for if the police had had knowledge of it, it might have produced disagreeable consequences, both to the Portuguese and to myself. One of them, the Marquis de P...., had been Chamberlain to the Queen of Portugal; and certainly her majesty did not shew much taste in her choice, for he had much more of the baboon than of the human being in his appearance. His son, a chevalier, was also a strange looking animal; with his hair in curls and plastered with powder and pomatum, his feet resting on the railings of his chair, and his elbows on his thighs, he grinned so strongly, that he reminded me of jacko just about to make a spring, and I could scarcely keep my countenance. His father, however,

seemed to entertain a high opinion of him: most certainly if he possessed abilities Lavater knew nothing of physiognomy. The brother of the Marquis, the grand prior, was however a rational man. But the person who pleased me most was le Sénateur; he was turned of fifty, with a noble deportment and general information; he spoke French and English, and formerly executed the English business at Lisbon, where he recollected having seen me with the Duke of Sussex. Cards were introduced, and I played with such success, that winning two rubbers I found myself a gainer of twelve sols. After cards tea was served as a compliment to me, and it was certainly of an excellent quality; but M. le Marquis unluckily taking it into his head that I must be fond of sweet things, to which however I have a mortal aversion, obliged me to swallow a great piece of cake,

that

that had nearly made me sick, which was only prevented by the introduction of some excellent old Port, in the praise of which I launched forth, in hopes of inducing them to produce a few bottles more, but we were obliged to be content with two. We talked with warmth of the affairs of Spain and Portugal, and I related the various successes of our armies in the former country, particularly Busaco, which led the Portuguese rather too far; for I had little doubt but that the doctor would repeat every word of our conversation to the police.

Recollecting that Madame le Tapis had promised me a good supper, and also to invite Mademoiselle Byrom and some of the opera performers, I quitted my Portuguese friends; and returning home found an excellent table set out, to which I had invited the Polish Major Sitowiski and one of our officers.

officers. The party was so agreeable, that with conversation, music, and champagne punch, the night passed away imperceptibly, and it was five o'clock before we broke up, when I retired with the melancholy reflection that the following morning I was to quit this charming scene of dissipation. It has often been remarked, that we can no more endure intense pleasure than intense pain; but at this time I should liked to have tried how much of the former I could bear. The privations I had suffered in my journey through Spain, were excellent preparations for the full enjoyment of the pleasures of Bourdeaux.

Early the following morning the cook informed me that some fine sea fish and other good things had just arrived; and while he was enumerating them my landlady made her appearance, and expressed her sorrow at my departure, adding that her

her house was never so gay; and promising, if I could only remain that day, she would prepare a dinner that would do her credit, and induce me to recommend her to my compatriots. Having agreed to this moderate request, I ordered dinner for six; the first course to be entirely of sea fish, and the dishes were suited to display the talents of the loquacious cook, to whom I regularly paid a visit every morning before breakfast. I had scarcely finished giving him my orders, when the Polish Major de Place, accompanied by two police officers, paid me an unwished for visit, and demanded what detained me at Bourdeaux? I answered that I had intended setting off that day, but that the persuasion of my hostess and the abilities of her cook had prevailed on me to remain; that I was sure Monsieur Pierre Pierre would not be so unkind as to deprive the good lady of the

the profits of her dinner; and still more, that he would not wish me to quit Bourdeaux without the favourable impression that this dinner could not fail to make. I moreover promised solemnly to depart the next morning; on which stipulation he unwillingly consented to my remaining. I soon after received a visit from Mr. Johnston, who apologized for not having invited me to dine; for which however there was no necessity, knowing as I did, that had the English merchants shewn any expensive attentions to their countrymen, they would most probably have attracted the notice of the government, and might have been doubly taxed, upon the principle that if they could afford to give their countrymen entertainments, they could no doubt also afford to contribute largely to the state. I however concluded, that though it might be dangerous for Mr. Johnston to give me

a dinner,

a dinner, there could be none in his dining with me, and therefore invited him, as well as Mr. Nero, who called himself a Swede, but who spoke English and several other languages so well that it would have been difficult to tell to what country he really belonged: for my own part, I was convinced of his being an Englishman. He had just returned from Paris with a licence to freight a vessel for London, which was to sail in a few days; and he was so kind as to offer to take charge of a very beautiful Spanish pointer, which I had procured at Burgos, and for which, for fear of losing him, I had taken an apartment in the hotel at nine francs per day, to the great surprise of my landlady. I have since heard that he arrived safe in England, and was much admired.

The evening passed very pleasantly over some of Mr. Johnston's wine, which he had

had brought with him, and which I found so excellent, that I would recommend him to all who import their own wines. When we broke up I went to a small but pleasant society, where I supped, and did not get home till four o'clock.

CHAPTER XXIX.

From Bourdeaux to Perigueux....Meeting with some Officers....St. Ubes....Carnival....Killing a Bullock....Digression on the state of France....Sugar of Beet-root....Conscripts....Cruelty to Spanish Prisoners....Conscription.

February 20. This being the day of my departure, became indeed a day of reckoning, for Madame le Tapis's bill was enormous. At three o'clock I took leave of my Bourdeaux friends, and whether their regret was real or fictitious, I will not presume to say, but all the females of the house were in tears; nor did I depart without a painful sentiment on my side.

Having crossed the Garonne by a ferry, I mounted my horse on the opposite bank, and had not proceeded more than a league beyond Carbonblanc the first post between

Bourdeaux

Bourdeaux and Paris, when I overtook three of our officers on foot. It was raining hard, and neither them nor myself had a change of clothes, for I had brought only a few shirts, a second waistcoat and pantaloons, in a small portmanteau behind my servant. The officers were still worse off than myself, as they had spent all their money at Bourdeaux, and had only their travelling French pay of fifty sols an *étape* (a day's marching allowance) to support them on their journey to Verdun, a distance of about four hundred and forty miles, during which they were liable to all the disagreeable circumstances that usually assail foot travellers. They were however cheerful, and laughed at the prospect before them; such are the advantages of good health and spirits, which in every situation in life, are infinitely superior to riches. On inquiring into the strength of their purses, they produced a petit

petit écu* and some sols, which was to last them to Angouleme, a distance of about twenty leagues. In order to make their marching money last out, they proposed walking two or even three *étapes* in a day, and by this means doubling or trebling their daily receipt. Although my purse was very low, I spared them a part of its contents, which set them up, and we parted, our *feuilles de route* being in different directions. As mine directed me to pass through Perigueux, I turned off the great Paris road to the right, and soon reached the village of St. Ubes, where I made myself as comfortable for the night as the small auberge would permit. In the morning, finding my horse's back so sore that it would have been cruel to ride him, I determined on passing the day at this village. After breakfast I

* About half a-crown.

walked to a *caffé*, the landlord of which, surrounded by a numerous audience, was reading the *Moniteur*, for which I learned that the whole village united to subscribe, on the express stipulation that the host should read it aloud. This was just the time when the Regency bill was passed in England, and which the French politicians expected would immediately produce a change of ministers and measures favourable to a negotiation for peace. The *Moniteur* of this day however informed them, that no change either of men or measures would take place, at which my host of the *caffé* seemed rejoiced, exclaiming, "*Bravo!* "*voilà un nation! voilà des gens qui ont* "*du caractère!*". As these exclamations surprised me, I asked the old gentleman, "why he wished so well to England?" "Because," replied he, "the English *sont* "*des braves gens.* I have had many deal-

"ings

" ing with them, and always found them " most correct and honourable; but," continued he, " since this cursed silly de- " cree of Berlin, all is misery in this " country, and as was formerly said of the " Non-Importation bill of the Americans, " it may be justly called an act of political " suicide." I now told the old gentleman I was an English officer taken in Spain, on which he immediately produced some cakes and wine, made many bows, and requested with much earnestness to be informed of the real state of affairs in that country, for that he knew the papers never told a word of truth; " and indeed," added he, " they are " now become so notorious that their falsity " is become a proverb, and *il ment comme* " *la gazette*, is the common expression to " denote a first rate liar." He thanked me for the information I gave him concerning Spain, concluding with a " *parbleu, quelle*

" *sottise de prétendre faire la guerre* " *contre tout un peuple.*" Having drank the health of this politician and his audience in excellent wine, I departed, receiving from them a hearty *bon voyage.* In returning to the auberge I met a party of musicians playing before an uncommonly fine ox, adorned with ribbons and garlands; on inquiring the meaning of which, I learned that this was one of the amusements of the Carnival which had now commenced, and that they were leading the ox thus adorned to the slaughter-house; a custom, which reminded me of the victims in the Pagan festivals: and indeed the Carnival has, in every respect, more of a Pagan than of a Christian festival, and may well be compared to the Roman Saturnalia. It commences the Sunday before Lent, and lasts till the eve of Ash-Wednesday; during which period, all the

lower

lower kind of people of the town parade the streets in masquerade habits, and plague the quiet passenger with impunity. At night masked balls are given at the theatres, to which all persons are admitted for one or two francs, and here the worshippers of Venus may pay their devotions at her shrine without fear of detection; here the wife repays her infidel husband in his own coin; the widow consoles herself for the ungallant restrictions of the Code Napoleon, by which she cannot take a second, until ten months after the decease of her *dear first husband*, and the pale maiden here finds a never failing remedy against the strange propensities to feeding on brick and mortar.

While paying a visit to the stable, I heard an extraordinary noise, and on inquiry learnt that it was produced by skinning the ox, I had just before seen so finely ornamented. On looking into the place I found

that they were literally beating the animal out of his skin ; for while one woman was blowing with a great pair of bellows between the flesh and the hide, three others were threshing it with sticks, which loosens the skin and makes it come off more easily. When this operation was finished, the carcase was hung up and covered with artificial flowers, ribbons, &c.

In the morning, though it rained heavily, I resumed my journey, and passed through a continued vineyard to the river l'Isle, which falls into the Dordogne. I crossed the latter (which is here of considerable breadth) in a good boat: but before my arrival at the river I had stopped under a handsome gateway for shelter from a heavy shower. I had not been here long when a respectable looking old gentleman came out, and begged me to alight and put my horse in the stable till the shower was over; his countenance

countenance bespeaking benevolence, prevented a refusal, and I accompanied him into the house, through a spacious hall, over the chimney of which hung a large escutcheon with the arms of a nobleman. This hall led into a saloon, with large windows opening on vineyards that sloped down to the river; pointing to them, the old gentleman said with a sigh, "*Ah Monsieur, voilà ceux qui* "*faisoient autrefois ma richesse; aujourd'hui* "*ils me sont une perte.*" He then observed that apparently I was an Englishman, and on my answering in the affirmative, he invited me to partake of his soup with his wife and daughter. This kind offer I at first declined on account of the darkness of the evening and the badness of the road; but he would not be refused. "You will get on the "better for it," said he, "and I will im- "mediately order your horse a feed of corn, "that both may proceed more cheerfully

" on the road." The lady and her charming daughter now entered, and insisted so kindly on my partaking their repast, that I could not resist. We proceeded to the dining room, where the old gentleman placed me next his daughter, who was as blooming as Hebe, and attired in a very neat morning dress. Some superior wine was produced, and the unaffected manners of the whole family made me feel myself entirely at ease, so that I conversed on several topics that pleased the old gentleman. Another bottle succeeded, which as it was emptied raised his spirits and increased his civility. He swore that if a French Marshal had stopped at his door, he might have got wet to the skin before he would have invited him to enter his house; but that the favour an English officer of my distinction had conferred on him and his family he could never forget. He

then

then spoke of the misery to which France was reduced by the ambition and mistaken policy of its ruler. " For what," said he, " do we make war? for what end do we " exhaust the population and the resources " of the empire?"—" Doubtless, Mon- " sieur," replied I, " you must have read " Montesquieu's *Esprit des Loix*, and you " may recollect the passage where he ob- " serves, that a country governed des- " potically only makes war to augment the " power and increase the dominions of its " ruler. The French nation I believe now " began to see this truth, and instead of " exulting, as formerly, at the victories of " your armies, it reflects that these bril- " liant successes serve only to rivet its " chains and perpetuate its distress; while " they cover with misery and desolation " the countries of which they have gained " Napoleon the possession. How different

" is

" is it, Sir, with the conquests of England, " which not only enrich herself, but also " the countries she subdues, by the reciprocal " advantage of free markets for the ma- " nufactures of the one and the produce of " the other. But, Sir," I continued, " it " has been the unvarying system of France, " since the revolution, to undermine and " level every antient government; while it " has been the principle of England to " support them as far as possible. Un- " fortunately for the cause of humanity, " the imbecility of monarchs and the cor- " ruption of their courts, have assisted the " views of France, in a greater degree than " the energies and the disinterestedness of " England have been able to counteract " them. Such, Sir, are the causes of the " calamities under which Europe is now " groaning; and strange it is to observe, " that Spain, (which is of all countries of

" Europe

" Europe the least advanced in manufac-
" tures, commerce and civilization,) should
" be the first to see its own interest, and to
" resist the torrent. Hitherto the French
" arms have been generally successful, but
" the war in Spain is of a very different
" nature from those you have hitherto been
" engaged in. In Spain, you have to con-
" tend against a people in whom revenge is
" the ruling passion, and every act of des-
" potism exercised by the French in that
" country, instead of tending to bend the
" people to your yoke, only augments their
" hatred and animates their exertions.
" Really, Sir, as a British subject, and
" still more, as a friend to humanity, I
" should not wish to see the French too
" rapidly driven out of Spain; for the con-
" tinuation of the war for two or three
" years longer, must so exhaust the re-
" sources of France, both in men and
" money,

" money, as to oblige your Emperor to " listen to reason; for, surely, he will not " be so infatuated as to go on towards his " destruction, when he finds that " God " " no longer gives him the power to ac- " " complish what he wills." On these " grounds, Sir," I concluded, " as a pa- " triotic Frenchman, you ought to rejoice " at the defeats of your armies, for though " by their victories Napoleon may increase " his dominion, I believe his subjects have " always found, that the only effect of " such additions have been the increasing " their burthens."

To this discourse the family paid much attention, and the old lady often remarked, " *c'est bien vrai.*" Turning to the daughter I observed, that " she ought also to re- " joice at the defeat of the French armies, " for that was the only means of bringing " about a peace on reasonable terms, and

" peace

" peace could alone ensure young ladies " husbands, which were now so scarce " that the amiable sex were really to be " pitied." I rose to depart, but the whole family with one voice insisted I should not quit them so soon, for that it was not every day they had the honour of entertaining an English officer; at the same time the old gentleman sprung up, and hurried off to the cellar for another bottle, which I agreed to see out provided the ladies would stay and partake of it; " *volontiers, Monsieur,*" replied the old lady, " for I admire the " English;"—" *et pour moi,*" cried the young one, " *je les adore!*"—" *C'est un* " *peu fort, Mademoiselle,*" said I. " *Non,* " *en verité, Monsieur!*" and this she said in so kind a manner that proved it to come directly from her heart. Indeed, had I been inclined to vanity on a certain point, I might have supposed that I was not indifferent

ferent to this young lady; particularly when she continued, " go where you will, " Monsieur, this family can never forget " you."—She seemed inclined to say more, but the return of the old gentleman interrupted her.

While emptying this bottle I related my adventures at Bourdeaux, and impressed both the ladies with an anxious desire to visit that city, and partake of its amusements. I now recollected that my servant would be quite at a loss to know what had become of me, for as I cannot bear a servant riding behind or near me, I always send him on before. The one I now had, not speaking a word of French, often committed blunders, and at one time I lost him for two days; but in the present case, as the road was direct, and he must be stopped by the ferry, I was not afraid of his going astray. Having taken an affectionate

tionate leave of this worthy family, I proceeded, and soon met my servant returning at full gallop, and in the utmost consternation. He informed me that he had waited some time at the ferry, but at last, conceiving some accident had happened to me, he was induced to return, and on reaching a river had observed a dead horse on the bank, which he fancied resembled mine, and thence concluded that I had been drowned in giving the horse to drink, and that some one had carried off the bridle and saddle. On this conviction he determined to return to Bourdeaux, and tell the news. At the same time that I wished him at the devil for his precipitation, I congratulated myself on not having delayed longer at the hospitable old gentleman's, which alone prevented the report of my death being carried to Bourdeaux, from whence

whence it would have been immediately forwarded to England.

Having crossed the Dordogne, I proceeded through a flat and fertile country to the village of St. Suzanne, where I determined to halt for the night at a little auberge, the people of which were very civil; but on inquiry into the state of the larder, I found it afforded nothing better than modest bacon and eggs, of which I partook with the family before the kitchen fire. The wine was so truly execrable, that I was obliged to ask for some spirits, and they produced a kind of brandy distilled from the husk of the grapes after being pressed. As, however, it is a fixed principle with me to take things as they come, I swallowed my humble repast cheerfully, and amused myself with the children, who crowded round me to admire my watch chain

chain and seals. The eldest daughter, a fine girl, sung some pretty airs, and the father recounted his campaign in Italy under Massena, of whom he spoke with enthusiasm. I inquired of the old man if the Carnival was yet over, and he answered with rapture, " *Dieu soit béni*, we have " yet three days to come!" Happy people, thought I, who laugh at all the cares and evils of this life, and, while they are not prohibited from dancing and singing, consider with indifference the tearing away of their sons by a conscription, and the impoverishing themselves by arbitrary taxes!

Next morning, February 23d, after passing through a flat and swampy country, I reached a rather considerable town called Mussidan, where I put up at the post-house, which was also an auberge; and though it had no very promising appearance, the windows being broke, and the

ascent to the bed-room by a ladder, I found the larder better supplied than at my last night's sojourn, and in the morning was for the first time surprised by the reasonableness of the charge, for my supper, consisting of some roast beef, a fowl and bacon, and two bottles of wine, besides breakfast for myself and servant, came to only four francs ten sols; and including the horses the whole charge was but ten francs. While breakfast was preparing I inquired of a decent looking man if there was a coffee-house in the town? he answered there were several, and offered to conduct me to one of the best. We entered a large apartment, in which was a billiard table, and a great number of chess and trick-track boards. The former game is particularly a favourite among the French, and the public tables are seldom vacant, day or night. I expected to hear some of the

persons

persons call for coffee, but on inquiry I learnt that no such thing was to be procured here, for that this article, which was formerly as great a necessary to the middling class in France as tea is to the English, was now only within the reach of the wealthy. Sugar also, of which the French are immoderately fond, they are obliged to forego; for though they have been amused with the idea of extracting this article from raisins, beet-root, &c. the produce is only yet to be found in the *Moniteur*, not a grain having appeared in the market. It is true, indeed, a sirup of grapes has been introduced into commerce, but those who have once made use of it will never be taken in a second time; for, independent of its possessing a very small proportion of the sweetening principle, which renders its use as dear as sugar,

it contains a powerful acid, that acts most disagreeably on the bowels. The idea of ruining England, and rendering colonies unnecessary to France, by the perfecting of indigenous substitutes for colonial productions, is indeed ridiculed by all classes to a degree very uncommon in France, of making it the subject of caricatures; some of which have more humour than is to be found in the generality of those seen in the Paris print-shops. One represents George the Third and Napoleon at opposite sides of a table, with a cup of coffee before each; our king is dissolving the point of a great loaf of sugar into his, while Nap is grinning horribly in trying to squeeze a drop of sweetening from a large beet-root. A second caricature on the same subject, shews how deeply the French are interested in it; it represents the King of Rome

Rome sucking a beet-root, making wry faces, and exclaiming "*voilà un joli morceau de sucre que mon papa m'a donné!*"

Feb. 24. This day's route was through a clayey and swampy country, by very deep roads, on which I was obliged to walk twenty-five miles, my mare being unable to bear the saddle; at length I reached a single house, called La Marsolia, and which, there being no other auberge on the road, is much frequented. Here heavy rains and the consequent floods kept me three days, during which I saw numerous parties of Spanish prisoners and refractory conscripts pass; the latter were always tied together, often forty or fifty in a string, like negro slaves going to the market, and only escorted by two or three *gend'armes à cheval*. Though their guards are seldom more numerous, there is scarce an instance of their resisting them, or attempting to escape; which, however, is made a capital offence.

The *gend'armerie*, indeed, forms the most efficient military police in Europe, and is so well distributed, that not only the roads are safe, but the people are also kept in complete political subjection. The tame and submissive disposition of the French is the great cause of the perfection of this police; and in nothing can this disposition be more strongly shewn, than the conscripts being thus led like flocks of sheep to slaughter; for, if any of them desert, the *chefs de complot* (the leaders) are sure to be punished with death, and the others have only to expect the galleys. When several conscripts desert in company, and no *chef de complot* can be discovered, then the oldest is considered as such, and suffers death.*

The Spanish prisoners that passed through the village were in a most miserable condition, and treated with the utmost brutality

* Vide page 492, relative to the conscription.

tality by their escort. Their shoes, which had been originally only a leather sandal, fastened to the foot with a thong, were worn out, and their feet dreadfully lacerated. In this condition, half starved and half dead with fatigue, they were goaded on by the *gend'armes*, who had orders to shoot those who should lag behind, and vast numbers of them were actually thus murdered in cold blood!!!—While France exists as a nation, the barbarous treatment of the Spanish prisoners must remain a stain on its character. Formerly the French soldier would have refused to be the instrument of the sanguinary orders of his superiors; but the revolution has entirely changed the French character, and more particularly that of the army. Before that event, the officers were chiefly nobles, who, however proud and licentious they might be, at least possessed the elegance of manners and literality of sentiment

which usually distinguish that order. At present, the great majority even of the superior officers are sprung from the dregs of the people, without education or principles; their manners are brutal, and their courage is ferocious. The revolution, in fact, swept away whatever was estimable, and left only the dregs of a corrupt society. It began by destroying a generous and brave nobility, and annihilating the clergy. Wealth then became the object of persecution, and, finally, the miscreants who composed the ephemeral governments, ignorant and wicked themselves, proscribed all talent and virtue.

If we formed our opinions hastily, we might suppose that the revolution, like the torrent which washes down the soil from the mountains to fertilize the vallies, had distributed the spoils of the rich among the poor, and that consequently the peasantry had

had derived inestimable advantages from the new order of things. A slight observation and inquiry will, however, convince us that their situation is very little, if at all, mended. The division of property which the revolution and the system of assignats produced, has, indeed, enabled every peasant to become a proprietor, and the estate which formerly scarce supplied the luxury of a single noble, or a few pampered clergy, is now divided amongst a thousand families. This acquisition of real property by the lower class, which in theory seems to add to the sum of human happiness and national prosperity, in practice has been found to produce the very contrary effects. Instead of improving agriculture, cultivation has gone considerably backwards, for the small proprietors are too miserably poor to meliorate their lands; they are often even obliged to borrow money

ney at usurious interest, to defray the charges of common cultivation, and the crop is thus mortgaged before the seed is sown. Commons were complained of before the revolution, as injurious to cultivation, and all the commons of France were divided among the peasantry, as nearly as possible, in equal portions of good and bad land. The evils of this hasty measure are now very severely felt, for the good patches of common, thus made property, are alone cultivated, while the bad are entirely useless, because divided among individuals, whereas when in common they served to pasture the cattle of the peasants.

But to return from this digression to the poor Spanish prisoners. I did what little was in my power to relieve them, by remonstrating with their guards, and by bargaining with the landlord to furnish them with a substantial soup of meat and vegetables,

tables, for which they were extremely grateful.

On the 28th the floods permitted me to quit La Marsolia, and I pursued my journey towards Perigueux, accompanied by my landlord. The country was low, and many parts overflowed, so that I had often to ride in water up to my saddle skirts. About a league from the town my companion pointed out a well, celebrated throughout France for a phenomenon which has occupied the attention of many naturalists, without its being yet satisfactorily accounted for. Its water rises every morning so precisely at nine o'clock, that watches and clocks are set by it; it overflows with great force, and covers the country for some extent until eleven o'clock, when it again begins to fall; and though the ground is very flat, the water is all gone off in the course of an hour.

The reader will not perhaps be displeased at learning in what manner the conscription, which may without impropriety be stiled the palladium of French slavery, is effected. The first compulsory enrolment, termed a levy by requisition, took place in February 1793, and the army continued to be recruited in that manner till 1798, when the first conscription was decreed, by which every French subject, of whatever class, is, when he arrives at the age of nineteen, obliged to take his chance to become a soldier. When a conscription is decreed, notice is given to all those whose age is completed within the year, to assemble at the town house, or other public place of the chief town of the department, where they are examined by surgeons, in the

the presence of the officers of Government, and those who have any bodily defects are passed over, while the rest draw lots for the chance of becoming heroes. Those who fall (the French expression is *tomber*), if they cannot procure a substitute, are immediately marched off to a depôt, where they are exercised, and from thence sent to join their regiments.

During the drawing of a conscription, the town hall is surrounded by the relations of the youths, and an ignorant spectator would rather suppose they were waiting the sentence of a criminal court, about to award life or death to their friends, than the decision of chance, whether they are to be citizens or soldiers. The only son of a widow above sixty years of age, whose subsistence depends on the cultivation of the ground by this son, is exempt from the con-

conscription. If twins fall in the same conscription, one only is taken; and the youth who has a brother killed in battle, if he falls, is not obliged to march, unless a supplementary conscription is decreed for that year.

Since this was written, the waste of the French armies has been so enormous, that the conscription of the current year has not been able to replace it, and hence the conscriptions of the succeeding years were at first anticipated; but latterly, this method being found still inadequate, recourse has been had to the back years, and those who had drawn and escaped, have been obliged to draw over again. The price of a substitute, which at the beginning of the war did not exceed one hundred louis, in 1812 had risen to five hundred; and in 1813,

1813, a substitute was, to make use of a colloquial but strong expression, not to be had for love or money.

END OF VOL. I.

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